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Latin America

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MORE ON ECLA-SELA MEETING IN SANTO DOMINGO

Blanco, Hurtado Discuss C.A.

FL041100 Santo Domingo Radio Earth in English 0200 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic -- The presidents of the Dominican Republic, Salvador Jorge Blanco, and Ecuador, Oswaldo Hurtado, yesterday expressed their preoccupation for the crisis being experienced by the Central American region which's [as heard] growing decomposition is putting the peace and security of the area in heavy danger.

Both presidents signed a joint statement before the departure yesterday of President Hurtado in which they stressed that negotiations, dialogue, and other peaceful media should be preserved in the search for peace in the region.

At the closing of the meeting of Latin American chiefs of state personal representatives here in Santo Domingo, a commission was named to make a document which will be called "the Santo Domingo compromise," and which will call for a meeting next September in Quito, Ecuador.

The president of the Dominican Congress, former President Jacobo Majluta, called the attention of the Latin American representatives to the fact that the requirements of the IMF reduces local production of (?boats), imports of needed materials, reduces employment factors, and the growing of inter-American commercial exchange. The president of the Dominican National Assembly called on the Latin American presidential representatives to widely discuss the possibilities of analyzing to a greater extent the policies of the IMF so as to favor regional interests.

Experts Note Dollar Crisis

FL041136 Santo Domingo Radio Earth in English 0200 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic -- A general consensus reigned last night among the economic experts of Latin America gathered here in Santo Domingo that U.S. currency's world shortage has originated a crisis in the world's markets.

All Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America have shown abnormal quotations for the U.S. dollar. The United States and its European allies have intervened in the European exchange market and in Beirut depreciation of the currency was being considered. In Washington, the U.S. monetary authorities have joined efforts with Japan, Switzerland, and Germany to correct the balance, while Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, and Mexico have shown unusual increases in their respective exchange markets.

Even the Dominican Republic, which usually is not affected by world's monetary markets, has shown an incredible increase of up to 60 percent for the exchange of the U.S. dollar in the parallel market. Economic consultants questioned here in Santo Domingo agreed that the world monetary crisis broke out since yesterday while this news was confirmed this morning by leading newspapers of the world which gave first-page importance to the crisis affecting most industrialized countries.

CABINET MEETS, VIEWS AMNESTY, FALKLANDS INCIDENT

PY050022 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 4 Aug 83 p 11

[Text] President Reynaldo Bignone briefed his cabinet about the upcoming amnesty law, and listened to reports on the Malvinas incident between a British warship and Argentine fishing trawlers, on the state of negotiations with Paraguay over the resumption of work on the binational Yacyreta hydroelectric project, and on a Provisional Metalworkers Union (UOM) commission headed by Lorenzo Miguel.

A statement issued by Government House later in the day referred to discussions on the amnesty law only as "a brief report on the current state of the Pacification Law and of its contents." On this subject, Education Minister Cayetano Licciardo would only tell the press that "there might be some official information" in the next few days.

The ruling military Junta will meet today to discuss the amnesty law which, according to Army sources, may be ready for signing by the beginning of next month. Bignone will join the meeting later, and other sources said it was possible that Interior Minister Llamil Reston might be called in too.

The law will not be discussed formally today, sources said.

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION DENIES WEAPON PLANS

PY050249 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 4 Aug 83 p 11

[Text] National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA] President Vice Admiral Carlos Castro Madero has categorically denied an international news agency report that Argentina would consider the production of an atomic bomb if Great Britain deployed nuclear weapons in the Malvinas Islands.

Consulted by LA NACION, Castro Madero noted that "there is neither an intention nor a plan to develop a military nuclear program." He reiterated, as he has done recently, that the Argentine nuclear program "is aimed only at developing our country, improving the standard of living of our people, and promoting unity and integration throughout Latin America."

Castro Madero said that he was not surprised to read from time to time reports that Argentina would build nuclear weapons. He noted that those reports "seek to influence the public of the countries that supply us with technology, in order to have those countries discontinue their cooperation with us."

The U.S. news agency ASSOCIATED PRESS yesterday released a report indicating that Argentina would consider the production of an atomic bomb if Great Britain deployed nuclear weapons in the Malvinas. The report quoted "CNEA sources."

According to the AP report, the consulted source is convinced that the British are planning to deploy nuclear weapons in our Southern Archipelago, which they have seized by force.

AP reports that a CNEA official, who asked not to be identified, said that "the deployment of nuclear weapons 400 km off our coasts would pose a threat to our security."

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VISITORS SCORE AMNESTY BILL

PY042119 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1618 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 1 Aug (DYN) -- A delegation of the European Parliament, which arrived today to study the missing persons' issue in Argentina, has condemned the amnesty bill that the government is seeking to pass into law, labeling it a "judicial monstrosity" and "preventive condoning of the crime." The group announced that on Thursday it will join the usual march of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo to protest the bill.

The visitors, who held a long meeting with the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo today, arrived at a time when the Mothers are launching a campaign to prevent approval of the amnesty bill. The Mothers have summoned the "Argentine people" to join them at Plaza de Mayo on Thursday at 1530 [1830 GMT] to protest in public against the bill.

The European Parliament delegation, which will also meet with politicians and union leaders to discuss the missing persons' issue, is made up of Italians Guido Fanti, leader of the European Parliament communist bloc; Christian Democratic bloc member Mario Pedini, head of the Parliament's delegation to Latin America; Christian Democratic bloc member Barbagli; Communist Pancrazio di Pasquale; Socialist Maria Antonieta Macciochi; Belgian Ernest Glinn, from the socialist bloc; and German Rudolf Wedekind, from the Christian Democratic bloc.

Government Censures Delegation

PY042103 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1956 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Aug (DYN) -- The Argentine Government has prohibited the European Parliament members, who began a visit to this country several days ago, to join a demonstration organized by the "Mothers of Plaza de Mayo" this afternoon, and to host a press conference in which they were to report on their mission to Argentina.

The official measure was announced by the visitors themselves, who said that the Argentine Government's decision was conveyed to them through the Greek ambassador to Argentina.

JOINT COMMISSION ESTABLISHED WITH EGYPT

PY031823 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2315 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 1 Aug (TELAM) -- A joint Argentine-Egyptian commission was established today and charged with the task of increasing economic ties and bilateral trade between the two countries. This was done within the framework of the activities of a visiting Egyptian mission presided over by Mustafa Kamil as-Sa'id Ibrahim, the Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade.

The foreign visitor met this afternoon with Ruben Boeiro, under secretary of foreign trade and regional integration. The two will hold a series of negotiations to discuss ways of increasing bilateral trade.

The members of the Egyptian mission are: the under secretary of economic cooperation, (Muhamed S. Kabudan); the president of the Misr America Bank, (Muhamed Dakrouri); the vice president of the Misr Iran Hotels, (Sami Sultan); the general manager of the Misr America Bank, (Michel Rowihab); the president of the Arab Insurance Company, (Gammaal Boroulo Si); the secretary of the Egyptian Businessmen's Association; and (Taher el Sehrif); president of the Daltex Agricultural Machinery and Development Company.

During a press conference held at the Commerce Secretariat, Mustafa Ibrahim noted that economic development in the eighties has been unfavorable since it helped increase the gap between rich and poor countries.

The Egyptian minister said he believes that the efforts which have been made by the United Nations to prevent this gap from widening "have not achieved practical results. It would be more useful to improve the South-South dialogue, which involves countries that have complementary economies."

Mustafa Kamil as-Sa'id Ibrahim said: Argentina is considered a developed country while ours is generally thought to be a relatively developed country. But I believe that above all else, we must note that Egypt is a market that represents half the population of the Arab world. He added: More important than this, however, is the fact that Egypt is the major door to the Middle East, and the agreement with Sudan further reinforces this status. He noted that in view of this it is necessary to work in three areas.

By way of explanation, he pointed out that in the first place Egypt and Argentina must broaden their ties. He noted that this will be greatly facilitated through the signing of the agreement establishing the joint commission that will meet at least once a year, alternating between the capitals of the two countries.

According to Mustafa Ibrahim, the second area of bilateral attention should be an agreement on medium-term credits to finance imports and exports. In this regard, he announced that negotiations are underway with the Argentine Central Bank to agree on a credit scheme to promote Egyptian exports.

In his third point, the Egyptian minister noted that negotiations must be carried out to lower freight costs on Argentine exports since these are too high and, as a result, these exports are 20 percent more expensive. For this reason, Argentine products cannot compete on the Egyptian market.

The foreign official noted that these problems can be solved by establishing free zones that will allow us to produce manufactured products which are competitive. This can be achieved through the installation of Argentine technology in Egypt and through the supply of Egyptian resources.

As for the joint commission, it was officially installed in a ceremony held at the Argentine Chamber of Commerce. The ceremony was presided over by Julio Gomez, president of the Argentine Chamber of Commerce.

General Roberto Marcelo Levingston and (Muhamed Ibrahim Dakruori), who signed the agreement along with Julio Gomez, were made honorary presidents of the Argentine-Egyptian commission.

The commission will seek to increase economic, commercial, tourist, and service ties which will be developed in keeping "with the laws and regulations of the two countries."

UCR ELECTORAL PLATFORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

PY042100 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0152 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Jul (DYN) -- Abolition of mandatory military service, unrestricted admittance into the universities, reform of the educational system, and establishing priorities to face the economic crisis were the main points of the electoral platform debated by the National Convention of the Radical Civic Union (UCR) tonight prior to the proclamation of the Raul Alfonsin-Victor Martinez presidential ticket. The document, officially entitled "Specific Proposal of the UCR National Platform," includes a series of basic measures which the UCR intends to put into practice if it gets elected. The proposals include: military matters; economic action; justice, peace, and human rights, labor policies, health, national education; housing policy; social security policy; culture; means of social communications, radio, and television; foreign trade; environmental policy; public sector; forestry policy; fishing policy; mining policy; economic infrastructure; public services; energy; transport, and communications; monetary and credit policies; and the external sector.

In the military field the platform proposes the abolition of the position of commander in chief, substituting for it the position of chief of staff; the administrative subordination of the Armed Forces to the Defense Ministry; the abolition of mandatory military service; and the reorganization of the Armed Forces. It also proposes the professionalization of the military cadre by tailoring it to the country's needs, allowing military expenditures to no more than 2 percent of the gross national product.

In the area of justice, peace, and human rights, it proposes that the ability of judicial officials depend on the Senate. It calls for the eradication of any form of torture with severe punishments for those who use it or are responsible for instigating it. It will promote a constitutional reform to eliminate the state of siege and to include provisions for habeas corpus and injunctions. It proposes a reform of the Military Code of Justice so that during peace time the military courts will only judge cases of violations of discipline by members of the Armed Forces. It also proposes legislation to punish any type of discrimination against nationality, race, or religion.

In the struggle against terrorism, a special police corps will be created to centralize actions and to facilitate information to the communications media and private human rights associations.

In another paragraph, the UCR document proposes the approval of a law regulating the human rights included in Article 14 of the Constitution.

It will also approve a labor and social security code and the reinstatement of the system known as the "minimum and adjustable salary." The debate on labor unions will be based upon the current legislation, Law No 22,105, proposing its replacement with a legal body guaranteeing independent and democratic unions.

Regarding the law of social works, a new legal body will be set up ensuring total independence of the administration of social works and union matters by the workers and the state.

The UCR proposes "a thorough reorganization, on a technical basis," of the Labor Ministry in order to prevent the ministry from continuing to be a political instrument which has traditionally aimed at structuring state oriented unions."

Health was discussed in principle. The UCR document proposes the abolition of payment by patients in the state health establishments.

The platform proposes to keep unemployed workers and their families as beneficiaries of the social work fund according to their registration at the time of becoming unemployed.

In the educational field, the platform proposes an increase and permanent readjustment of school allowances, the operation of free school lunches every day of the year, and subsidies to the school cooperatives to provide free clothing and school materials to needy children. It also proposes the reorganization of the National Directorate for Adult Education (DINEA) within the framework of permanent education; the establishment of a collegiate body for the administration of secondary education under the National Council of Secondary Education; the elimination of the subject on moral and civic education; the elimination of subjects of an authoritarian nature; the free formation of student associations; and the reopening of the National University of Lujan. Regarding university policies, the UCR proposes to eliminate the system of quotas for admittance into the universities and the system of tuition imposed during the process of national reorganization.

Regarding housing policies, it proposes to normalize the title of lands where housing projects were built with state financing and the title of land where people have been living for many years.

Regarding social security, it proposes the elimination of distortions and contradictions in the current system, an unfair system with social inequalities. The platform also proposes a new policy of investments of social interest independent of the capital market for the security of the community. The document also says that retirement and pension regulations must be in accordance with the salaries of the workers. Retirement payments and pensions will be automatically increased and readjusted in keeping with the increase in the cost of living. Also regarding social security, the UCR proposes the implementation of an insurance for unemployment that will enable the worker to meet, without too much anguish, his needs during his involuntary unemployment.

In the cultural area, the UCR suggests the rejection of all kinds of blacklists, censorship, and ideological discrimination, to finish the construction of the national library within a short time, and to amend Law No 11,723 regarding intellectual property. Another proposal is to issue a law that supports the free circulation of books and promotes the export of books.

Regarding the mass media, the UCR proposes a new way to exploit television channels and radio broadcasting houses through the implementation of a nongovernment, nonprofit, autonomous public organization. It also proposes the establishment of a permanent bi-chamber mass media commission that will defend the public's right to have access to truthful information, the respect of ideological pluralism, the enforcement of the right to speech, and the defense of a democratic and republican form of government.

The backbone of the draft of the UCR platform encompasses economic, monetary, and credit policy. In this regard the UCR proposes the drafting of an annual monetary plan that will establish the volume of money that must be issued every month. It proposes to regulate the flow of money by placing financial institutes at the service of production. Moreover, it provides for the elimination of the indexation of deposits, but it will offer guarantees so as to protect the people's savings.

The policy of the public sector is aimed at decreasing expenses in keeping with the needs to achieve an economic recovery and its development through the redistribution of resources based on new priorities.

Regarding the agricultural sector, the UCR proposes to increase agricultural production by promoting the participation of the official banking sector through the issuance of credits but in keeping with production capacity and not only according to the value of assets.

As for the exporting sector, the UCR proposes to promote and strengthen Argentina's participation in recovering foreign markets, but mainly aims to orient Argentine trade to ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] member countries. Moreover, it proposes to suspend the import of luxury and dispensable products, but allow the unrestricted importation of semimanufactured raw material and spare parts.

ALFONSIN ADMITS CONTACTS WITH NICOLAIDES

PY041500 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1334 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 3 Aug (NA) -- Raul Alfonsin, presidential candidate of the Radical Civic Union (UCR), today admitted that negotiations between high-ranking Army officers and leaders of his party are currently underway with the aim of arranging a meeting between him and Lieutenant General Cristino Nicolaides.

Alfonsin said that "there is some truth to it" in answer to a question regarding the accuracy of reports related to conversation between UCR leaders and officers of the Army Command. The reports, published today by the dailies LA NUEVA PROVINCIA of Bahia Blanca and CLARIN of this capital, indicated that "preparatory meetings between Alfonsin's close aides and high-ranking officers of the Army General Secretariat" are taking place.

In answer to questions by journalist Bernardo Neustadt of Radio Mitre -- who read the main parts of the reports -- Alfonsin said that "there is some truth to it." He went on to recall that "I have repeatedly complained about the activity of some media which we believe are clearly engaged in discrediting campaigns that have nothing to do with the democratization process." He added: "There is also some truth to the idea that any meeting we may hold with military men, particularly members of the junta, must be made public." "That is all I can say," was Alfonsin's last remark on the matter.

ALENDE NAMED INTRANSIGENT PARTY CANDIDATE

PY050046 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 4 Aug 83 p 11

[Text] Oscar Alende said yesterday on being proclaimed the Intransigent Party's [PI] presidential candidate that he advocates the review of all the laws and decrees issued by the military regime, and said that "we must try those who are guilty of our ailing nation's disaster."

At a press conference during which he officially accepted the PI nomination, Alende said that it was necessary "to try all those responsible for the disaster in order to avoid a repetition of" a situation in which "anti-national minorities and imperialism act on military leaders, who convince themselves it is their duty to take over."

The PI candidate contradicted recent statements by Peronist presidential hopeful Italo Luder to the effect that the regime's projected amnesty law covering all aspects of the so-called "dirty war" against leftwing subversion would be "irreversible," emphasizing that the future congress would have to "review all laws and decrees issued by the de facto government."

Alende said that the Armed Forces "must abandon the national security doctrine exported by West Point to over 100 Latin American army officers," and declared himself in favour of "nationalizing banks, deposits, and credit," stressing his belief that Argentina's foreign debt "cannot be justified." He did not dismiss the possibility of a future armed conflict with Britain over the Malvinas Islands, claiming that he is no "soothsayer," and indicated that history will have to say whether the creation of "a nuclear navy base in Puerto Argentino" as a result of last year's conflict had not been "premeditated by many heads."

The candidate confirmed his party's willingness to form electoral fronts, but dismissed any such alliance with the Radical Party (UCR), claiming that its electoral platform is merely "reformist", rather than "revolutionary." "The future government's situation will be so difficult," he added, "that no party will be able to face the task alone."

MASSERA'S PARTY TO SUPPORT JUSTICIALISTS

PY041818 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1525 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Neuquen, 3 Aug (NA) -- Retired Admiral Eduardo Emilio Massera's Party for Social Democracy will not participate in the national elections slated for 30 October and will vote for the Justicialists, according to Alfredo Vezza, one of the national leaders of this party.

In his statement to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, Vezza admitted that this decision is tied to the fact that Massera is in preventive custody, a measure ordered by the court in connection with the case involving the disappearance of businessman Fernando Branca. "If Massera is not released, the Party for Social Democracy will order its members to vote for the Justicialists," Vezza said. He added that since their primary leader is in prison, the party cannot participate in the elections, and the decision to vote for the Justicialist ticket will be announced after the Justicialist congress appoints its candidates.

Vezza spent 3 days in the city of Neuquen to meet with local leaders of the Party for Social Democracy. He said that the party has been legally recognized in Neuquen and Tierra del Fuego and that he is awaiting recognition in Chubut. He explained that there are still problems to be resolved in Rio Negro.

UNION OF DEMOCRATIC CENTER RECOGNIZED IN CAPITAL

PY041747 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1120 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Aug (DYN) -- Judge Francisco Marquardt, who has jurisdiction over electoral matters in the federal capital, has recognized the Union of the Democratic Center, headed by former [Ceremony] Minister Alvaro Alsogaray, as a political party in this district, since it has complied with the requirements established by law.

Moreover, the judge dismissed objections that had been raised by the Christian Democratic Union to the use of the acronym "UCD" by the Union of the Democratic Center. Therefore, the political party headed by Alvaro Alsogaray will be allowed to use this acronym in the future.

NEW FRG-BUILT DESTROYER COMMISSIONED 4 AUGUST

PY041810 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1024 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Bahia Blanca, 4 Aug (DYN) -- The missile-equipped destroyer ARA La Argentina was commissioned today during a ceremony held at the General Belgrano naval base. The destroyer La Argentina is the second of four built at the FRG shipyard Blohm and Voss AG. All of these destroyers are of the same type as the Almirante Brown -- which has been commissioned already -- the Srandi and the Heroina. The latter two are being readied.

The commissioning ceremony was held on the poop deck of the ship. It was presided over by Vice Admiral Rodolfo Remotti, commander of naval operations, and attended by the commanders of the sea fleet, the Marines and naval aviation, Rear Admirals Eduardo Morris Girling, Carlos Edmundo Sosa, and Maximo Rivero Kelly, respectively, and other high officers.

Following a speech delivered by the Naval Materiel director general, Rear Admiral Roque Manrique, the naval operations commander's order commissioning the destroyer La Argentina was read. The ship was blessed and finally, the national anthem was sung.

The ship was built following the Meko system and it is equipped with the most sophisticated weapon, control, and communication systems. It may fend off any threat, be it from air, submarine or surface units. It is also equipped with two antisubmarine helicopters. This gives the destroyer's air-to-surface missiles a broad range. Its main features are as follows: length 125.9 m; beam 14 m; and displacement 3,630 tons.

ECONOMIST RESIGNS FROM DEBT INVESTIGATION

PY032251 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 3 Aug 83 p 11

[Text] Justicialist economist Jorge Dominguez resigned yesterday from the commission of court-appointed experts who are conducting a probe into the inordinate growth of Argentina's foreign debt, claiming that his work had been hampered by insufficient access to the necessary information.

Dominguez, the first defector from the group of economists appointed by Federal Judge Martin Anzoategui to carry out an investigation into the debt of about 45 billion dollars, said he had not been provided with the necessary information, "be it as the result of bureaucratic hindrances, or for other reasons I don't think it would be convenient to analyze." The economist also slammed recent press reports, saying that they had interfered with the investigations by hinting that some of the experts appointed to carry out the probe sought publicity for themselves, rather than the fulfillment of their task. Meanwhile, fellow investigators Hector Valle and Osvaldo Trocca, from the Movement for Integration and Development (MID), denied statements made last Saturday by Sabatino Forino -- a colleague in the investigation -- implying that they were not being impartial in their work.

TRANSPORT-COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER RESIGNS

PY050211 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Bolivian Transport and Communications Minister Hernando Poppe Martinez has submitted his resignation to President Hernan Siles Zuazo. Minister Poppe Martinez' resignation is added to those submitted by the finance minister, the planning minister, and the secretary of the presidency, as well as those of the labor and labor development minister and the mining and metallurgy minister.

President Siles will appoint his new cabinet members in the next few hours to replace the resigning ministers, and it is quite likely that he will include some labor leaders.

COB Invited To Join Cabinet

PY042016 Paris AFP in Spanish 1554 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] La Paz, 4 Aug (AFP) -- Union leader Aldo Flores today told AFP that Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo has officially invited the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) to join the cabinet that Siles must reshuffle by 6 August.

The Minister-Secretary of the Presidency Horacio Torres Guzman delivered an official letter addressed to COB Executive Secretary Juan Lechin Oquendo asking for the appointment of delegates to initiate immediate talks with a commission that the government has set up to deal with the manner in which the workers will participate in the government.

At a mass rally held 2 days ago, the COB asked to participate in the government with Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP). The beginning of negotiations for workers' participation in the government coincides with strenuous efforts that the UDP is making this afternoon to obtain a majority in the Chamber of Deputies, something that is indispensable to halt the opposition's attempts to destabilize the regime.

COB Issues Proposals

PY030315 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, the Bolivian Labor Federation, COB, released a document on the economic problems affecting the country. In a document entitled "Against Hunger and Coup Conspiracy, Strengthening of the Process," the COB propcses that the workers participate in the government through the COB.

The document makes several proposals as a political answer in view of the serious crisis which is jeopardizing the democratic process and threatening to bring back the dictatorship. The COB proposal considers worker comanagement in the state productive enterprises and worker control over the large private enterprises as necessary.

In the economic field, the COB demands the immediate solution of the problems affecting the people, such as the supply of the main processed food products. The COB suggests that control over the distribution and sale of these products be the responsibility of the COB and the Single Confederation of Bolivian Peasants [Confederacion Unica de Trabajadores Campesinos de Bolivia, CUTCB] so they can be delivered with firm prices to consumers in the mines and cities.

The document goes on to say that this is the only way to effectively eliminate hoarding, smuggling, and speculation which, in turn, have created artificial shortages of these products and the hunger currently affecting the majority of Bolivian families.

The document adds that to alleviate hunger and in view of the lack of foreign currency for the importation of basic necessities such as emergency food supplies, medicine, and raw materials and goods for the industrial sector, the government must sell the gold reserves of the Bolivian Central Bank. It must implement a new gold policy, starting with a reversion of the gold concessions granted as of 1971 and thus permit state control over gold production, with an aim at replacing and increasing the gold reserves in our country.

The COB document also requests the direct importation of raw materials, machinery, spare parts, and medicine by the Mining Corporation of Bolivia, COMIBOL; the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits, YPFB; and the National Social Security Fund, in order to eliminate middlemen. The document says that public enterprises must import these products directly.

In reference to salary policies, the COB document advocates the implementation of an economic program guaranteeing price stability and the buying power of the workers. The minimum salary with sliding scale must be applied on the basis of the real cost of goods. A consumer price index prepared with the worker's participation must be used for the application of the sliding scale.

The document also advocates the postponement of foreign debt payments until the conditions of the national economy allow the fulfillment of all foreign commitments. It also rejects IMF demands and proposes the implementation of policies in accordance with the interests of the nation and the people. It supports state control over the country's financial mechanisms by forcing private banks to fulfill first their commitments with international banks and to subject them to a thorough audit of their assets and profits during the regimes of Hugo Banzer and Victor Paz Estenssoro [as heard].

The COB document also calls for the recognition and institutionalization of the comanagement program for peasants; the projects and programs for rural development; and full support for the resolutions of the Second Peasant Congress.

It also calls for the cancellation of the YPFB contracts with the foreign oil companies Tesoro and Occidental; the replacement of the outdated system of paying for personal services; and the recovery of the resources appropriated by the private sectors through promissory notes and credits granted by previous governments. In conclusion, the COB document advocates the defense of the nation's natural resources. The document was signed by Juan Lechin Oquendo, Oscar Sanjines, Gonzalo Guzman, Simon Reyes, Armando Morales, Victor Lima, Aldo Flores, (Edgardo Vazquez), and (Tomas Cabrera).

BRIEFS

BELGIAN MINING LOAN -- The government of the Kingdom of Belgium has granted Bolivia a loan of 75 million Belgium francs, without interest, for the development of the Carachipamba mining project. The Bolivian Government will return the loan in installments of 3.75 million francs starting on 31 December 1994 with a 10-year grace period. [Summary] [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Aug 83 PY]

ITAMARATY ON REAGAN STANCE; SEPULVEDA VISIT CITED

PY050308 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Aug 83 p 5

[Text] Itamaraty yesterday indirectly praised President Ronald Reagan's statement that the conflicts in Central America must be resolved through diplomacy, not through armed confrontation. Itamaraty also noted the possible beneficial results of the negotiations between U.S. Ambassador at large Richard Stone and the Salvadoran guerrillas, but it is continuing to refrain from making any comment on the presence of the U.S. warships off both coasts of Nicarauga.

Itamaraty spokesman Bernardo Pericas stated that Reagan's declarations are in line with Brazil's position that a political approach is the "only one possible" in Central America. According to Pericas, the Brazilian position was expressed by Minister Saraiva Guerreiro in his last meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Pericas recalled that in November 1982 (before the Contadora Group was formed) during President Reagan's visit to Brazil, President Joao Figueiredo noted that the efforts by Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia could dispel tensions in Central America.

Pericas did not want to comment on the remark made by Navy Minister Maximiano da Fonseca that "a navy is just like that; it hoists some little flags and goes out to put pressure somewhere." Pericas admitted, however, that Itamaraty's position, not commenting on the presence of U.S. warships off the Nicaraguan coasts, is "a government's position." Therefore, the remark by Minister Fonseca is his personal opinion, or at the most the opinion of the Navy.

The Itamaraty spokesman also said that, whenever the occasion has arisen, Brazil has always presented to "friendly countries" its position favoring the Contadora Group, and he emphasized that such support is not only "political but moral." He then affirmed: "I do not know of any other country that has given so much in the way of support."

During the dinner given for Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda at Itamaraty yesterday, Minister Saraiva Guerreiro affirmed that "he could not let the occasion go without reiterating the Brazilian support for the efforts of the Contadora Group, particularly at this moment," and stated that "Brazil does not entertain ideas of leadership, nor does it want to form an axis of regional power."

In reply, Minister Sepulveda thanked Brazil for its support of the Contadora Group made up of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama. He added that the conflicts in Central America "can only be resolved through diplomacy and negotiations."

The Mexican foreign minister also visited with acting President Aureliano Chaves, and paid visits to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, where he spoke with Deputy Flavio Marcilio and Senator Nilo Coelho, presidents of those houses of congress, respectively. The Mexican minister affirmed: "We understand that it would be advisable for countries to refrain from actions which may contribute to increasing tensions in Central America." Minister Sepulveda thus expressed his agreement with PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] leader Humberto Lucena, who had said that the maritime blockade of Nicaragua with U.S. warships created a tense climate in the region.

Following his visit to Congress, the Mexican foreign minister held a 40-minute private meeting with acting President Aureliano Chaves in the Presidential Office at the Planalto Palace.

SPOKESMAN DENIES CALS STATEMENT ON ELECTIONS

PY041415 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Presidential spokesman Carlos Atila has denied a statement issued by Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals, who has said that President Figueiredo favors direct elections in 1990. Atila noted that during the meeting, the president merely listened to what the minister had to say, but did not say anything in this regard. After meeting with President Figueiredo, Energy Minister Cesar Cals left for Managua, Nicaragua, where he will attend a Latin American energy experts conference. He is scheduled to return to Brazil this weekend.

ADVERSE EFFECTS OF REGULATED INTEREST RATES

PY021700 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Jul 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Credit Cannot Stop"]

[Text] The current contraction of credit at private banks that has been brought on by the partial regulation of interest rates imposes an obligation upon the government to define its ambiguous position in the financial market. The government cannot at the same time intervene in the financial market as a regulatory body and as the main agent of confusion in the system.

This contradiction cannot be tolerated even on the grounds that such a contradiction results from the need to enforce an anti-inflationary policy, or to respond to the treasury's cash demands. Worse than taking us nowhere, the ambiguity leads, as can already be seen, to increasing threats to the solvency and viability of private enterprise in the country.

Businessmen and bankers are now complaining about a situation where commercial credit is paralyzed for all practical purposes, something that is especially hard on small- and medium-sized enterprises. Almost all banks have suspended their credit operations, allegedly because they cannot compete with the government in attracting resources from the public. This is because the public finds it more profitable to invest in treasury papers which pay higher interest on the open market.

If unequal and arbitrary competition blocks the flow of resources toward the banking system at one end of an indivisible process, how can loans be expected to flow normally out of it at the other end? There is no formula, however sophisticated, capable of circumventing that reality. Since low cost credit does not exist, a situation which threatens to halt all productive activity, businessmen go for expensive money, which is available and allows them to stay in business while hoping for a recovery.

The monetary policy would only appear to be ambivalent if it were implemented, through the monopoly of the open market, mainly to withdraw money from circulation to channel into financial investments (risk free), money which would otherwise be used for purchases, which is typical of inflationary periods. This expedient of tightening liquidity, however, can only have highly recessionary effects leading to economic stagnation, shutdown, bankruptcy of enterprises, and increased unemployment.

The government's position on the open market must be changed, either by reducing earnings on treasury securities, or by temporarily pulling out of the open market to return later under new and equitable rules.

The Brazilian economy currently faces one of the most perilous situations in its history, because credit is the lifeblood of production and the vital element of our development process. To avoid collapse, it is not enough for the government to order the Bank of Brazil "to cover the end-of-the month commitments of the country's commercial and industrial enterprises," thus to tide them over "the credit reduction announced by the private banking system." The future of our economy depends on more consistent and less interventionist measures, reaching beyond an emergency situation and staving off the danger of statism.

CENTRAL BANK CENTRALIZES FOREIGN OPERATIONS

PY021732 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Jul 83 p 17

[Text] The government yesterday decided to centralize all dollar remittances abroad through the Central Bank. The measure was adopted by the National Monetary Council late in the afternoon following another telephone conference. The decision was promulgated through Central Bank Resolution 851.

In a note jointly released by the Planning Ministry, the Finance Ministry, and the Central Bank, the authorities explained that the measure is intended to put the Central Bank in the position to make foreign payments on a priority basis, especially oil import payments.

Beginning next Monday, commercial banks can engage in buy-and-sell foreign exchange operations as intermediaries of the Central Bank. Whenever they transact a foreign exchange sale operation, the commerical banks will not make the remittance abroad. Remittances will be made exclusively by the Central Bank.

Under the new operational system, the bank purchasing foreign exchange from an exporter will have to turn it over to the Central Bank, and the bank selling foreign exchange to an importer will receive cruzeiros from the Central Bank, which will make the payment in dollars to the creditor abroad whenever it can make the remittance.

The measure will apply not only to importers but also to individuals and companies that must make payments abroad. They can buy dollars from the banks, but they will have to stand in line at the Central Bank for remittances.

The monetary authorities also explained that by centralizing foreign operations at the Central Bank they intend to have better control over incoming or outgoing payments in foreign currencies until additional foreign resources necessary for financing the 1983 balance of payments are effectively disbursed by foreign banks. They recognize the inconvenience of the centralizing and bureaucratic measure, but explain that there was no other alternative. They "noted the emergency and temporary nature of the measure."

The monetary authorities pointed out that the decision was adopted due to the delay in concluding negotiations with the IMF, "because, as the public knows, negotiations with the IMF are still underway." The most realistic possibility is that the country will have only the additional resources necessary for making overdue payments and reestablishing a margin of freedom in handling foreign exchange at the beginning of the last quarter of the year.

Until then, it has become necessary for the Central Bank to be wholly responsible for all dollar remittances abroad so as to be able to manage resources for essential payments such as those for oil imports. Thus, "even taking into account the current unfavorable conditions of liquidity, it will be possible to administer foreign payments without disrupting the normal operation of the economy."

The monetary authorities summed up the new system of foreign currency operations to be transacted by commercial banks beginning next Monday as follows:

A) Complying with all the provisions of regulations currently in force, the authorized banks will continue to normally transact buy-and-sell foreign currency operations.

B) Foreign exchange sales will be transacted, but the seller bank will not make remittances abroad, except in the following sale operations carried out by the banks:

-- Interbank market.
-- Coverage of operations through credit bills or promissory notes issued or guaranteed by authorized banks whenever operations with countries with which Brazil has reciprocal credit agreements are involved, or of operations through credit bills related to bilateral payment agreements.
-- Payment of securities subject to deposit in the Central Bank in the terms of Resolution 813 of April 1983.
-- Payment of arbitrage operations carried out by banks authorized to transact foreign exchange operations.
-- Payment of banking expenses (commissions, communications expenses) charged by foreign correspondent banks of local banks authorized to engage in foreign exchange operations.
-- Payment for imports made by duty-free shops located in international areas at Brazilian airports and exclusively doing business in foreign currencies.
-- Payment of interest accrued by delays in remittances caused by application of the regulations now dictated.

C) The sale of foreign exchange will not grant the right to obtain foreign exchange coverage.

D) In foreign exchange sales, the cruzeiros collected by the seller bank will be earmarked for liquidation of foreign exchange purchase operations simultaneously transacted with the Central Bank, and they will be credited to the seller bank in a foreign currency deposit, following the procedure adopted for amortization of foreign debts falling due in 1983 (project 2 under foreign debt renegotiation program submitted by Brazil in December 1982).

E) Authorization for remittances abroad will be given by the Central Bank according to availability of foreign currencies.

The National Monetary Council also decided that once priority payments are made, available resources will be distributed to take care of as many remittances as possible in accordance with the established priority scale.

The old system could not continue in force, the monetary authorites said, because the decentralized system of foreign exchange operations did not always adequately meet the needs of the nation "in this period of acute shortage of foreign currencies."

They explained that "channeling only a fraction of foreign earnings into the Central Bank was creating difficulties for making essential payments on schedule, such as payments for oil imports, basic material imports, and government obligations.

Finance Minister on Payments

PY041503 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Brazilian Finance Minister Ernane Galveas yesterday asserted that there are no reasons for foreign banks to withdraw their deposits at the foreign branches of Brazilian banks because of the centralization of exchange operations in the Brazilian Central Bank, which the National Monetary Council, CMN, decided last Friday.

Galveas was optimistic about the possible repercussions which the CMN decision will have abroad as it goes into effect today. He indicated that lists of priority imports will not be published, and he added that priorities will be based on common sense. For example, he said, remittances of hard currency to pay for whisky imports can hardly be considered a priority. Royalties, profits, and dividends will be put on the waiting lists.

Galveas explained that oil, interest payments, and essential raw materials will be given first priority for the allotment of foreign currency. He added that next will come the payment of allowances to national representatives abroad, service contracts, strategic components (such as parts for computers, heavy machinery, books, newsprint, and medicines.)

The minister said that what will happen is that the positions of the government and the private sector with regard to foreign payments will be reversed. He explained: "In order to pay for our imports on time, we have been postponing official obligations; now we reverse this situation, paying off official commitments and oil imports first."

Measures May End by October

PY031840 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 2 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Planning Minister Delfim Netto predicted yesterday that the centralization of exchange operations at the Central Bank adopted by the government on Friday will end by October. The authorities received with great relief the climate of normality on the international banking market yesterday in the first practical test of the measure.

A high-ranking official source revealed that there had been no withdrawals from deposits, neither from project 4 (interbank system) nor from project 3 (commercial operations). With concern, Sao Paulo bankers have indicated the omission of circular 804, which establishes control of exchange operations, as far as remittance of interests for prefinancing exports is concerned.

Exempted from these restrictions are remittances of money for students abroad (up to $300 monthly), for the purchase of spare parts for airplanes, scientific equipment, and purchase of books and printing paper, among others. FIESP [Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries] will ask the government to limit the control to the biggest importers. "I believe 10 percent of the importers are responsible for 90 percent of imports," FIESP President Luis Eulalio Bueno Vidigal stated.

On the parallel market, a strong demand in the morning increased the dollar price to 970 cruzeiros, an increase of 5.4 percent compared with Friday, and operators partially suspended operations.

BAN ON NON-MARXIST POLITICAL PARTIES LIFTED

PY041745 Paris AFP in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 4 Aug [AFP] -- It was officially announced here today that the Chilean military government will allow non-Marxist political parties to function, thus putting an end to the political recess established 10 years ago.

President Augusto Pinochet announced that the constitutional law which will regulate the activities of political parties will be pushed through a special commission in whose discussions the opposition will participate.

This declaration was made 1 week after the Chilean chief executive sent a letter to Pope John Paul II informing him of his -- Pinochet's -- decision to hold a broad dialogue in order to find solutions to the severe political, economic, and social crisis which the nation is experiencing.

PINOCHET ANNOUNCES REVIEW OF 'POLITICAL' LAWS

PY050331 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Relay from Government House by Graciela Contreras]

[Text] The president of the republic has announced that those laws included in the Constitution which are of a political nature will be analyzed. These include: the statutes on political parties, the suffrage law, the Congress law, and the law of the Electoral Court.

This information was provided by the president to the journalists accredited to La Moneda Palace, following a meeting with Miguel Schweitzer, president of the State Council.

The president said:

[Begin Pinochet recording] (?For the ease) [words indistinct] of studying the laws of a political nature that are included in the Constitution, that is, the statute dealing with political parties, the suffrage law, the Congress law, and the law of the Electoral Court.

[Question indistinct]

[Pinochet] [Passage indistinct] will summon numerous people who are either members of this government or of the opposition to suggest ideas in this regard. This would be as of the beginning of October.

[Question indistinct]

[Pinochet] [Words indistinct] just as I mentioned the other day, we are issuing new measures, we are implementing new laws and we are completing the 1980 Constitution.

[Question] Can we say then that the government is stepping on the accelerator?

[Pinochet] No, no, no. I have always had my foot on the accelerator.

[Question] Would you say [reporter is interrupted by others questioning Pinochet; Pinochet is also heard speaking some indistinct words] for shall we say a constituent assembly?

[Pinochet] No, I already said that this is not the case. It is the State Council that will work on this.

[Question] Mr President, is this within the framework of your answer to Pope John Paul?

[Pinochet] Yes. It is, and as I have already said, the corresponding steps have been taken.

[Question] Is there a deadline for this?

[Pinochet] In 1989.

[Question] What do you expect from the members of the opposition and those dissidents whom you will summon to give opinions?

[Pinochet] I suppose they will give their frank and will-intentioned opinions.

[Question] Could you give us some names of those who will participate in this [words indistinct].

[Pinochet] [Answer indistinct]

[Question] Mr President, have any concrete steps been taken during the past few days regarding an opening, or, better said, a greater dialogue....

[Pinochet] What opening are you talking about?

[Question] Not a dialogue but a....

[Pinochet] What do you mean by a dialogue, since dialogue has always existed....

[Question] I am referring to the Interior Ministry's decision to drop the court cases. Will any information be released regarding....

[Pinochet] [Words indistinct]the first step that was taken was the letter to his holiness. We then dropped the court case as further proof that we abide [words indistinct] which is what we are doing with the package of laws. [Passage indistinct] [end recording]

The president pointed out that the State Council has not been given a deadline for its report; nor can we predict the problems it will have to solve. He reaffirmed that the statutes on political parties are provided for in the Constitution.

'HUNDREDS' MARCH, FIVE ARRESTED IN SANTIAGO

PY050346 Paris AFP in Spanish 0320 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Santiago, 4 Aug (AFP) -- Police report that five persons were arrested tonight during a demonstration against the government of General Augusto Pinochet. The demonstration was staged in the downtown Ahumada Promenade in Santiago. Hundreds of youths and students demonstrated along the promenade, shouting slogans against the military regime. They were quickly dispersed by special units of the Carabineros.

The demonstrators asked the people to peacefully join the fourth national protest action scheduled for Thursday, 11 August.

Several incidents occurred when the police dispersed the crowd.

It was recalled that during the 3 previous protest actions, which resulted in violent clashes between police and demonstrators, 8 people died and more than 3,000 were detained.

At the same time, in the neighborhood of the parade ground a few blocks from the place where tonight's demonstration took place, eyewitnesses reported that government supporters began a march toward Santa Lucia Hill shouting slogans in favor of the regime, which will close its 10th year in power on 11 September.

PRODEN ORGANIZING NATIONAL PROTEST FOR 11 AUGUST

PY041620 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0949 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Santiago, 4 Aug (EFE) -- The "eminently political" nature of the fourth national day of protest, scheduled for 11 August, clearly colors its slogan: "To ask Pinochet to resign from the presidency."

This was the opinion of Social Democrat Diego Portales, secretary of PRODEN (National Development Project), the organization that has called a new national day of protest, and of which official representatives from the various national opposition trends are members.

The union leaders have also agreed to the idea of holding another national day of protest. These protests have been held on a monthly basis since 11 May. This was explained by Rodolfo Seguel, leader of the Multiunion Group and of the Copper Workers Confederation (CTC), who, after holding a meeting with Santiago Archbishop Francisco Fresno, announced that "We shall continue with our protest."

In a press conference held yesterday, PRODEN calimed responsibility for organizing the forthcoming national day of protest and reported that about 700 people have already expressed their support for the march. It added that it believes that politicians, professional associations, and unions will also express their support.

Diego Portales noted that PRODEN's request is "based on political, social, and economic reasons that make it impossible to wait until 1989," the date established by the present Constitution on which the regime headed by General Pinochet is to end its term. He also announced that he will soon issue a proposal that will seek a change to enable the country to achieve democracy through peaceful means.

Moreover, Portales criticized certain members of the mass media for "not providing information or for not being objective in their reports about national events." He even threatened to take action against those sectors of the mass media, but did not specify what kind of action he had in mind.

FRENCH MILITARY AID TO NICARAGUA DISCONTINUED

PA041607 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0220 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota, 3 Aug (LATIN-REUTER) -- This evening French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson said that his government will discontinue military aid to Nicaragua, and reiterated France's support for the Contadora Group, which seeks a negotiated solution to the crisis in Central America.

Speaking at a news conference -- his final activity of a 2-day official visit to Colombia -- Cheysson said that without obligation France has given $18 million worth of aid to Nicaragua in the form of trucks, helicopters, and planes.

"We are not going to renew this type of aid," Cheysson said. He added that France, as well as other West European countries, has stated its support for the declaration signed in Cancun, Mexico, by the presidents of the Contadora Group. This declaration calls for the suspension of military aid to Central American, the withdrawal of foreign advisers, and the dismantling of foreign bases. The Contadora Group is formed by Venezuela, Mexico, Panama and Colombia.

Cheysson said that the "current tension" in Central America is the fruit of social injustice and an inadequate distribution of wealth. He addedthat France also agrees that the Central American crisis must be resolved by the countries of the region, "without interference from other countries."

He said that the mobilization of U.S. troops for maneuvers in Central American waters is not in line with the Cancun declaration and "cannot represent a contribution [progreso]" to peace in the region.

Cheysson said that, during his meeting with Colombian President Belisario Betancur at Government House, they discussed world economic and political matters as well as relations between the two countries.

Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, who was also present at the news conference, said that French Culture Minister Jack Lang will arrive in the country tomorrow to follow up on cultural subjects discussed during Cheysson's visit. Cheysson will go to Cuba early tomorrow morning after making a brief stopover in Panama, diplomatic sources have reported. Cheysson's tour through Latin America also included visits to Brazil and Bolivia.

PRC DELEGATION VISITS TO EXPAND MUTUAL TIES

PA042105 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Bogota -- The Colombia and PRC Governments have concluded an agreement on the construction of 60 small hydroelectric plants in various areas of the country that lack electricity, particularly in the national territories [administrative divisions].

Jia Shi, Chinese deputy minister of foreign economic relations and trade, explained that the cost of the construction will be some $50 million and that the agreement will be signed during the current visit by several Chinese Government officials to Colombia intended to strengthen bilateral economic, commercial, and cultural relations.

The Beijing Government will supply machinery, equipment, engineers, and (?counseling), and will train the Colombian personnel who will take part in the installation of this network of small hydroelectric plants, which will provide decisive service to underprivileged communities in various parts of the country.

Minister Jia Shi made this announcement following a protocol visit to President Belisario Betancur at Narino House, during which he outlines his government's intention to strengthen ties with Colombia in various areas of economic and trade cooperation.

The Chinese delegation has also established contacts with other institutions, including the Development and Mines Ministries, PROEXPO [Export Promotion Fund], INCOMEX [Colombian Foreign Trade Institute], and the National Federation of Coffee Growers.

BRIEFS

COCAINE, MARIJUANA CONFISCATION -- Valledupar, 31 July (By James Castrillon) -- Some 250 kg of cocaine valued at 500 million pesos were confiscated by antinarcotics police in one of the most effective and successful operations against drug trafficking ever staged. Six individuals were arrested in the operation, which took place at La Guardinaje farm in Pueblo Nuevo municipality. Eleven tons of marijuana were also confiscated in the operation. [Summary] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 1 Aug 83 p 2A PA]

NEW PRESIDENCY OFFICE -- Today President Belisario Betancur placed the Presidency's Administrative Department under the recently created Secretariat for Border Affairs, which is in charge of establishing the government's social, economic, agricultural, and industrial policy in border areas. This new organization will coordinate the implementation of development programs in those areas and will promote, along with the Foreign Ministry, agreements with bordering countries to watch over international basins and natural resources and to ensure environmental protection. [Excerpt] [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Aug 83 PA]

TRAVELING QUOTA REDUCED -- The Monetary Junta has reduced the dollar quota for special travellers from $400 to $300 per day, and from $30,000 to $20,000 per year. The advance deposit per dollar, which is returned to the traveller 2 months after his return, has been increased from 15 to 50 pesos. For regular travellers, the quota remains as follows: $250 a day and up to $5,000 a year for persons over 12 years old, and $125 a day and up to $2,500 a year for children under 12. [Summary] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 30 Jul 83 p 1 PA]

EXTRADITION DENIAL -- The Colombian Government has denied a U.S. request for extradition of Jose Ivan Duarte Acero and Jairo David Valencia Cardenas, who were found guilty of attempting to murder two U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency officials in the Colombian port of Cartagena on 10 February 1982. A Presidential Palace communique explains that the extraditions requested by the United States were denied because the criminal acts took place on Colombian territory. A third individual, Rene Benitez, will be extradited, but only after he has been tried in Colombia and has served his sentence, if convicted. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0020 GMT 2 Aug 83 PA]

NEW DEFENSE MINISTER SUPPORTS ELECTORAL PROCESS

PA042003 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] General Jorge Arciniegas Salazar, the new Ecuadorean defense minister, has reiterated the armed forces' determination to respect the Constitution and guarantee democracy. Arciniegas replaces General Jorge Maldonado, who resigned. The new minister had formerly been commander of the land forces. He was replaced by Division General Garibaldo Mino.

In a brief interview, Arciniegas said the armed forces have faith in the country's institutions. Just as they fulfill their responsibilities, they expect the electoral process under way to be realized within the law.

Ecuador is preparing for presidential and legislative elections in January 1984. These will be the second elections since democracy was restored in 1979, ending a decade of dictatorship.

Arciniegas indicated that he will not retire from the military as other chiefs have done when appointed defense minister.

OFFICIALS REFINANCE 85 PERCENT OF DEBT IN EUROPE

PA042120 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 July 83

[Text] Eighty-five percent of the Ecuadorean debt has been renegotiated in Europe. Finance and Credit Minister Pedro Pinto and Central Bank Manager Aberlardo Pachano returned to the country yesterday after they merged the refinancing of creditors' and government obligations. The negotiations were carried out at the Paris Club, and according to official sources 85 percent of this refinancing was accepted.

BRIEFS

AMAZON OIL ROYALTIES -- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy has issued a new regulation by which the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation (CEPE) will be authorized, as of 15 August 1983, to collect royalties in kind on the 15,000 barrels of oil extracted daily by foreign oil companies in the Amazon region, instead of in direct cash payments, as has been customary. The measure is designed to give CEPE better options for marketing its crude oil, of which all 92,000 barrels per day have already been placed among the different oil multinationals through long-term sales contracts at a price of $27.50 per barrel. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Aug 83 PA]

NEW JUSTICE, INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE MINISTERS

PY041825 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] The new justice, industry and tourism, and agriculture ministers will be sworn in today by the president. The new ministers are Ernesto Alayza, who is replacing Armando Buendia as justice minister; Ivan Rivera, new industry minister; and Carlos Hurtado Miller, who will take over the Agriculture Ministry from Mirko Cuculiza.

LEFTIST GROUPS SAID TO SUPPORT SHINING PATH

PY041305 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1829 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Peruvian National Defense Commission Vice President Aureo Zegarra has said that acts of violence in Peru are not only committed by the Shining Path, but also by other extremist organizations which support the Shining Path. Zegarra, a deputy for the ruling Popular Action Party, pointed out the existence of other extremist groups, such as the Pukallacta and a faction of the so-called Revolutionary Vanguard, which provide assistance to the Shining Path. Pukallacta is a splinter from the Patria Roja [Red Fatherland] Marxist Party, and the Revolutionary Vanguard is a small extreme left organization. Zegarra is in favor of direct intervention in the fight against terrorism by the Peruvian Armed Forces along the lines the government is considering before making a final decision next Monday at a meeting of the National Defense Council. He also believes that foreign counterterrorism experts should advise Peruvian authorities on how to fight terrorists.

PERSONALITIES WANT DIALOGUE WITH ARMED GROUPS

PA040204 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Prominent Peruvian personalities have indicated that a dialogue between the government and armed groups is necessary to achieve peace. Attorney General Miguel Cavero, Chimbote Bishop Msgr (Luis Banbaren), and Christian Democratic President Carlos Blancas indicated that it is a matter of national urgency that the government initiate a dialogue with the clandestine armed groups to end the existing state of tension in Peru.

HAVANA REPORTS EXPULSION OF LABOR LEADER BY APRA

PA040155 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Text] The Executive Committee of the APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] has expelled Senator Julio Cruzado because he refused to resign as secretary general of the Confederation of Workers of Peru, which is controlled by the APRA. APRA Deputy Luis Negreiros has accused Senator Cruzado of receiving money yearly from the U.S. Labor organization, AFL-CIO.

COLOMBIAN OFFICERS ARRESTED WITH COCAINE

PA020030 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Text] The Peruvian police caught four Colombian Air Force members by surprise as they were in the process of loading 1,175 kg of cocaine paste into two small planes in the Tanante region in the northern Amazon area of Peru. Peruvian Interior Minister Luis Percovich confirmed the arrest of the four Colombian officers, who he said are currently retired. They were identified as Leon Arenas Parraga, Abron Jimenez Lopez, Nelson Sierra Pastrana, and Oscar Sierra Pastrana.

COLORADO LEADER ON GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS

PY050216 Paris AFP in Spanish 1544 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Montevideo, 4 Aug (AFP) -- In the first public reaction to the restrictions imposed on political and press activities last Tuesday, Colorado politician Enrique Tarigo said today that faith in freedom should be maintained, and that the moral obligation to fight for freedom should not be evaded.

In an editorial published in the weekly OPINAR, Tarigo pointed out to the readers, especially the youth, that even when the hope for freedom has been dashed, faith in freedom should be maintained, and freedom must be viewed as mankind's highest value and as the irreplaceable cornerstone upon which to build human dignity.

The activities of those political parties which were recognized a year ago, the Colorado Party, the Nacional (Blanco) Party, and the Civic Union, as well as the activities of their leaders, have been suspended by the government, which also imposed restrictions on press reports of such activities and broadened the grounds for stripping citizens of their political rights.

Tarigo, co-leader of the majority opposition faction within the Colorado Party, admitted the possibility that he may have written his last editorial today, and that today's issue of OPINAR may also be the last to be printed. Tarigo added that he is also under the threat of being stripped of his political rights.

After saying that the prospect of his voice being silenced is not mere supposition, Tarigo pointed out that the moral obligation to fight for freedom is binding, whatever the circumstances, with the conviction that life without freedom is not worth living. He closed his editorial with exhortations such as: "Long live freedom, long live democracy, and long live the free and democratic fatherland."

The front page of OPINAR was blackened, leaving a white block in the center of the page with an inscription that read: "Political activities suspended and commentaries prohibited."

Havana Cites 'Repressive Measures'

FL041600 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1424 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] The Uruguayan military regime has placed the printed media under strict censorship: Criticism of official government business has been banned, while political parties, under threat of severe fines, have been forced to suspend their activities.

A government decree, a new government act, and a speech delivered by Uruguayan Interior Minister Hugo Linares Brum have set the course which the country must now take to fulfill the timetable established by the armed forces. The measures imposed by the Montevideo regime limit political party expression to a bare minimum, suspend organizational activities for an indefinite period, and ban the dissemination of news related to political events.

Despite the fact that such government action will only heighten the repressive climate in Uruguay, the military regime insists that it will lead the country onto a democratic path.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION

PY041310 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0029 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Aug (EFE) -- Uruguayan Foreign Minister Carlos Maeso today stressed the need for "a cooperative nationalism with a frank and intense participation in international affairs as well as a strong affirmation of the national identity" in the region.

When a local publication asked Maeso to comment on integration in Latin America, he stated that "a large part of the frustration encountered by the integration processes currently underway is caused by the lack of realism with which this subject has been tackled."

The foreign minister mentioned the transition from LAFTA to ALADI and the need to renegotiate all the agreements on a virtually bilateral basis. He then pointed out that "It could be said that we are experiencing a situation similar to that which prompted the idea of integration in the 1950's, but which did not prevail later on."

The minister pointed out that the international economic crisis, "in addition to affecting our national economies, has also created problems for the Latin American integration process. Short-term national economic problems have become an urgent issue at the expense of the integration process, which has become of secondary importance."

Maeso ended his statements by voicing his optimism and asserting that "We believe that with the signing of the Montevideo Treaty in 1980, we took the first step in achieving the necessary political will to allow a joint effort in pursuit of common prosperity."

BRIEFS

NEW SOCIAL SECURITY DIRECTOR -- The government has named Juan Femenias as the new director general of the General Directorate of Social Security. He replaces General Hugo Linares Brum, who is the current interior minister. [Summary] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 14 Jul 83 p 7 PY]

SUPPORT ANNOUNCED FOR BORDER ENTERPRISES

FL050036 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2253 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Mexico City, 4 Aug (NOTIMEX) -- Support for the northern border zone's economic activity represents a breath of fresh air for industrialists because it will permit the completion of their obligations, the National Associaton of the Processing Industry (CANACINTRA) has said.

Yesterday in Tijuana, the federal government announced that the northern border zone businessmen could open accounts in dollars, import goods to which their installations have added value, [as received] and state their problems before an intersecretarial commission, which started operating today.

CANACINTRA spokesman Aurelio Tamez Garcia said this support is proof of the government's flexible policy and of the fact that improvised policies for the benefit of jobs and production plants are things of the past.

The spokesman added that things are difficult now in industry and, although we are operating without profits, we have the confidence to go forward.

He also said that the private enterprise body he represents will request the Intersecretarial Commission for the Development of Border Industrial Districts and Free Trade Zones to extend federal support to all industrial fields.

BRIEFS

NATIONAL DEFICIT REDUCED -- Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog disclosed in Chihuahua on 29 July that during the first quarter of 1983, the national deficit reached 394 billion pesos, an amazing 24-percent reduction over the same period in 1982. During the first semester of 1983, the nationalized banks received 654 million pesos, 300 percent more than during the same period in 1982. [Summary] [Mexico city NOVEDADES in Spanish 30 Jul 83 pp 1, 10 PA]

CHEYSSON INTERVIEWED AT OMAR TORRIJOS AIRPORT

PA042317 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Report on interview with Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, by an unidentified reporter at Omar Torrijos Airport in Panama City on 4 August, prior to Cheysson's departure for Cuba, Cheysson's comments are in French, with simultaneous translation into Spanish -- broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...in his tour of Latin America, which has included and will include Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, and Cuba, the last via Panama. During his stopover in Panama, we interviewed the French minister of external relations. Here is what he said:

[Begin recording] [Cheysson] In the past few days, I've been to three South American countries. I gave a full account of this yesterday at a press conference in Bogota, Colombia, where I was accompanied by my colleague, the Colombian foreign minister. I am now on my way to Cuba. While here, I had the opportunity to talk with two of the region's foreign minister, those of Panama and of Nicaragua; the latter was also here in Panama.

As you should realize, we in Europe are highly concerned about the situation in Central America. I also wish to congratulate the Contadora Group for its effort and the Contadora Group presidents for their Declaration of Cancun. I really appreciate the opportunity I had to talk to the Colombian Government officials and to the Panamanian foreign minister.

As for my conversation with the Nicaraguan foreign minister, I explained to him that my government supports a moderate attitude that can lead to a peaceful solution based on the Contadora Group's recommendations.

[Question] In your opinion, what would be the best solution to the Central American issue?

[Cheysson] The solution must be in Central America, arrived at among the countries of the region, with support from neighboring countries and in the absence of all foreign meddling. This is what the Declaration of Cancun stands for, and we fully support it. [end recording]

[Announcer] The French foreign minister held a long conversation with Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado and with Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera. Here in Panama, he also met with Miguel Brugueras del Valle, Cuban ambassador to Panama. Prior to boarding the Cuban plane that took him to Havana, the French foreign minister disclosed that he had talked with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, who apparently travelled here from Managua to meet with him.

AMADO VIEWS CHEYSSON VISIT, U.S. FLEET

PA042344 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Interview with Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado by reporter Demetrio Olaciregui at Omar Torrijos Airport in Panama City on 4 August -- recorded]

[Text] [Olaciregui] What were the results of your meeting with the French foreign minister?

[Amado] Our meeting was highly positive. We talked not only about bilateral matters, such as the investment agreement that was signed a few months ago with the French Government, but about regional issues as well. France is deeply concerned about the Central American situation. The French Government has expressed its support for the Contadora efforts to find a peaceful and negotiated solution. Further, the French Government intends to give the Contadora efforts even more active support by talking with various groups in an attempt to promote understanding and dialogue.

[Olaciregui] Does the French Government have a specific formula for the solution of the Central American crisis?

[Amado] In general terms, the French Government's position coincides with the Contadora position; thus, the complete support it is offering the four countries of the Contadora Group.

[Olaciregui] Do you think Contadora still has a chance of finding a solution to the Central American crisis?

[Amado] Definitely.

[Olaciregui] Does the presence of U.S. battleships in the region make the crisis worse?

[Amado] Any increase in military forces, regardless of its source or objective, is negative. We believe that conditions should be promoted to reduce military activities and to increase dialogue. However, given the situation in Central America, what we must do is increase our diplomatic efforts. [end recording]

HAVANA CITES AMADO ON STONE-ZAMORA MEETING

PA040158 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado has expressed optimism about Central America's future and described the meeting in Bogota between Richard Stone, U.S. special envoy to the region, and Ruben Zamora, FMLN-FDR representative, as a positive development.

The Panamanian foreign minister said that the meeting between the two representatives falls within the contacts being carried out to seek means of achieving a peaceful solution in the Central American region.

HAVANA CITES PRESS ON U.S. ARMY TRAINING

PA050150 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] The Panamanian jungle is being used by the U.S. Army to train its troops in antiguerrilla warfare, so that they may be used against the Central American people. This information was published by the Panamanian biweekly BAYANO.

BAYANO included photographs of these training oeprations, which were published by the newspaper THE SCN NEWS, edited by the U.S. Southern Command, stationed at Panamanian bases.

The Panamanian newspaper stressed that now is the time to hear the voices of those who must vehemently reject this grave situation, adding that the United States is thus proving its policy decision to turn Panama into an operations and training center for eventual attacks on Central America.

PAREDES, NORIEGA STRESS NATIONAL GUARD UNITY

PA042125 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 4 Aug 83 p 1

[Excerpts] Brigadier General Ruben Dario Paredes yesterday commented on the monolithic unity of the National Guard, an institution which, he said, wants only to work jointly with the central government and with the various Panamanian communities for the main purpose of perfecting the country's short-term democratization.

"In Coclecito"

Commander Paredes said this upon concluding a 12-km administrative walk in Coclecito, in which for the first time in the National Guard's history two brigadier generals participated with members of the general staff and with the various chiefs of zones, headquarters, and services.

Addressing the event, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the general staff, said that Paredes has always been a perfect soldier, an exemplary chief, and a great patriot, whose public and private lives have always been tinged with noble purposes and great achievements.

Noriega added that after 12 August, Gen Paredes and the high command, the officers, non-commissioned officers, and troops of the National Guard will not go their separate ways but, on the contrary, unity will remain as vigorous as ever.

COSTA RICA

CIVIL GUARD REINFORCED TO CURB VIOLENCE IN UPALA

PA042220 Paris AFP in Spanish 1718 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] San Jose, 4 Aug (AFP) -- The Costa Rican Government has decided to send more civil guardsmen to the area of Upala, on the Nicaraguan border, to curb the wave of violence between groups that support and those that oppose the Sandinist government, it was announced in San Jose today.

In a statement to the press, Presidential Deputy Minister Manuel Carballo admitted that the situation in northern Costa Rica is "worrisome," noting that it was discussed at the government council's meeting yesterday.

Carballo said that several places in the area are threatened with destruction, and noted that the authorities are investigating a fire that destroyed a large number of houses and business establishments in Upala last Monday, reportedly caused by this "espionage and counterespionage warfare."

In addition, the violent death of five people in the last few weeks -- four supporters of the Sandinist regime and one in opposition to it -- was attributed by the press to fighting between the two sides.

The Costa Rican Government has urged Upala residents to remain neutral toward the Nicaraguan conflict and has decided to reinforce the 60-man civil guard contingent there with additional units.

Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano said that efforts were being made to solve the problems in that border area, which is characterized by a climate of uncertainty and fear as a result of the deaths, kidnappings, threats, fires, and acts of extortion resulting from this "war among spies."

PARDONED TERRORISTS LEAVE FOR NICARAGUA 4 AUG

PA042011 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1504 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] San Jose, 4 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- One Argentine and three Central American terrorists whose sentences had been suspended left this morning at 0800 (1400 GMT) for Nicaragua aboard an Aeronica plane. The official pardon had been linked to their expulsion from the country, but for 2 weeks Costa Rica was unable to find a country that would receive them. Nicaragua has accepted them, but only during transit to another destination which has not been reported.

The group was tried and found guilty of several crimes committed on behalf of the Salvadoran guerrillas. The crimes included possession of and trafficking in arms and explosives. The chief of the band, Argentine Jose Carmelo Sbezzi, was given a 12-year prison sentence; Eloy Manuel Ibarra and Juan Carlos Murillo, from Nicaragua, and Miguel Angel Moreno, a Salvadoran, were each been sentenced to 10 years in prison.

However, the same court that sentenced them recommended their sentences be changed to expulsion from the country based on several considerations, including the fact that neither Costa Rica nor any Costa Rican citizen was adversely affected by their activities.

RED CROSS REPORTS ENTRY OF 111 NICARAGUANS

PA031655 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] After spending 8 days crossing the mountains, 111 Sandinist refugees entered the country through (Las Siricias) this morning. They fled from Escalera and [name indistinct] because the government declared the area a red zone -- a place where it is believed counterrevolutionaires live. The Ciudad Quezada Red Cross office will transfer the refugees to the (Pilaran) refuge, Major Bermudez reported.

Marcelino Garrido, one of the Nicaraguan dissidents, reported that the commanders order peasants killed when they disagree with their policies. Men are taken prisoner and their relatives are given no supplies, not even food, he noted. Most Nicaraguans oppose the nine commanders' regime, but are afraid to say so because it could mean death.

Bermudez said that the Nicaraguans are malnourished and sick. Most of the immigrants are children afflicted with diarrhea, whooping cough, and parasites. Some of the women are pregnant and also in bad health, he added.

In the past 4 months, 315 Nicaraguan refugees have entered the (Pilaran) refuge. Costa Rican authorities are prepared to handle these emergencies.

BRIEFS

WORLD BANK LOAN -- The World Bank has announced that the first deliveries on an $80 million loan granted to the Costa Rican Government will be made in the next week, in order to strengthen the economy following the government's successful completion of the monetary stabilization program. [Text] [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Aug 83 PA]

LOAN FROM IMF -- Costa Rica will receive a new loan in the amount of $20 million from the IMF this month. So far our country has complied with all the stipulations of its agreement with the IMF, which will expire next December. In September and October the government and the IMF will begin negotiating a new agreement for the 1984-86 period. [Text] [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Aug 83 PA]

FRG COOPERATION AGREEMENT -- The FRG-based (Hans Feidel) foundation has signed an agreement with the Costa Rican Government for cooperation in social, educational, and research areas, and for the strengthening of human freedom. The foundation, headquartered in Bavaria, will grant technical assistance and transfer technology to Costa Rican specialists and professionals in various disciplines. [Summary] [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Aug 83 PA]

COOPERATION WITH SPAIN -- Yesterday Fernando Volio, Costa Rican foreign minister, and Gonzalo Fernandez de Cordova, Spanish ambassador to Costa Rica, signed a cooperation agreement providing Spanish assistance for the Rio Tempisque irrigation project, and also providing Costa Rica with 6-month scholarships for studies in the irrigation field. Spain will also send personnel to Costa Rica to work on the project. [Summary] [San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Jul 83 p 4 PA]

EL SALVADOR

HAVANA SAYS STONE TO MEET WITH ZAMORA AGAIN

PA042124 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] It has been reported in Washington that Richard Stone, U.S. presidential envoy to Central America, will meet again with Ruben Zamora and other FMLN-FDR leaders.

It has been said that Henry Kissinger, the recently-appointed chairman of the U.S. bipartisan commission for Central America, suggested that the meeting be held in Bogota.

COPREFA REPORTS FLORES LIMA PROMOTED TO GENERAL

PA020348 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Aug 83

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee]

[Text] The Armed Forces Press Committee informs Salvadoran citizens and the people in general:

Colonel Florez Lima Promoted to General

Col Rafael Flores Lima, under secretary of defense and public security, has been promoted to general, according to General Order No 11 issued today. At the same time, Colonel Saul Zelaya of the Air Force has been appointed commander of the Army arsenal.

[Dated] San Salvador, 1 August 1983

HAVANA CITES RIGHTS GROUP ON CHILDREN'S WELFARE

PA050400 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] The Human Rights Commission of El Salvador has charged in Mexico City that 300,000 Salvadoran children have taken refuge in other countries as a result of the indiscriminate repression unleashed by the army of Alvaro Magana's regime.

The Human Rights Commission added that more than 200,000 of these children are under 3 years of age and that 70 percent of all Salvadoran refugees are under the age of 14.

The commission indicated that the hardships suffered by Salvadoran children are not limited to those in refugees camps; among the 600 political prisoners that the Salvadoran regime has admitted, 60 are under 16, and no one seems to know the charges against them.

The commission said that in 1981, more than 100 Salvadoran children who had taken refuge in Berlin died from contageous diseases, malnutrition, and as a result of lack of housing. In the meantime, 7,000 more were condemned to die amid the most deplorable conditions.

In addition, hundreds of children have been killed as a result of the indiscriminate bombings and total destruction of villages perpetrated by the Salvadoran regime's soldiers, armed and trained by the United States.

VENCEREMOS REPORTS FIGHTING IN CACAGUATIQUE

PA041739 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Our heroic militias have checked the puppet army's military operation in the Cacaguatique area with their fighting in the heights of Cacaguatique Volcano.

Our militias report that so far the enemy has suffered 38 casualties, including 9 killed. Intense fighting occurred on the heights of Cacaguatique, where our militias, we repeat, have made the enemy pay a high price for each advance it makes in this strategic Morazan Department area.

The enemy artillery and Air Force have exhibited their weaponry, but they have not frightened the FMLN militias, which in this department are supported by the combative history and tradition of our people. Greetings to the Cacaguatique militias. Forward, companeros! Let us continue making those heights a territory of victories!

GUATEMALA

POLITICAL LEADERS DISCUSS ELECTION AGREEMENT

PA041801 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 1740 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Political leaders of the so-called Multiparty [Multipartidaria] met this afternoon in a Guatemala City hotel to discuss the subjects analyzed last Thursday during a meeting with chief of state General Efrain Rios Montt, as well as some of the points that could be raised at the meeting they will hold with the president next Thursday.

In interviews with Teleprensa, some political leaders stated the positions of their particular groups. (Oscar Buroti Goldebare), a leader of the National Liberation Movements by the government minister and the president concerning an alleged political party commitment not to conspire against the government, but to cooperate with it:

[Begin recording] We were surprised when Gen Rios Montt said he does not want us to plot. We are opposed to plots. We have stated our position in a communique I will read for you now, so that all Guatemala will be aware of it: The MLN informs the people: Aware of the urgent need for the country's return to constitutional life, we attended the 28 July meeting of well-known political parties and political committees. This meeting was convened by Gen Efrain Rios Montt.

On that occasion, we presented what we believe is the most suitable elections calendar and supported it with valid arguments. However, due to the opposition of parties and committees that seek only the convenience of small groups and therefore yield to the demands of Gen Rios Montt, our party, for the sake of peace and harmony among Guatemalans, agreed to the elections calendar the people are familiar with.

However, the MLN notes that this agreement does not mean we support, morally or materially, an unconstitutional regime in which we have no participation. [end recording]

Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, a representative of the Guatemalan Christian Democracy, discussed this afternoon's Multiparty meeting, as well as the political pact:

[Begin recording] This afternoon the Multiparty continued analyzing political subjects related to the democratization of Guatemala. We will discuss needed reforms of the elections law to make the process viable, as well as the idea of a political pact. [end recording]

STATE COUNCIL HEAD ON MEETING WITH OPPOSITION

PA041254 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Engineer Jorge Serrano, president of the State Council, announced that he has requested an audience with the president of the republic to report on the results of the seiminar, considered the most important dialogue with the leaders of the opposition in Guatemala.

The president of the State Council added that he will inform the president of the requests by Guatemalans in exile, particularly with regard to guarantees from the government so that they may return to the country without fear for their lives.

Meanwhile, political leaders in exile have said the government should commit itself to turning over power to the winner of the elections. The president of the State Council noted that during his stay in Costa Rica he spoke with the political leaders in exile on several occasions, and although they admit there have been positive changes in the country, they insist that the government and the groups participating in the political opening commit themselves to respecting the people's will and turning over power to the winner of the elections.

Serrano said that Guatemalan leaders forced to flee the country questioned the electoral advances, noting that in the past such processes had been an affront to the people, in which various governments in power direct the selections, not permitting participation by anyone opposed to them.

Jorge Serrano submitted for the consideration of those present the existing legislation in Guatemala, the creation of the supreme electoral tribunal, and the new citizens' documents, which will have to serve as the guarantee if the people are to have faith in the 1984 electoral process.

One of the aspects that apparently most impressed those who attended the seminar was the creation and consolidation of the supreme electoral tribunal, comprised of lawyers with solid professional prestige and honesty, who should represent the guarantee expected by the people, so that the government may be turned over to the winner of the elections.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON GUERRILLA SURRENDERS TO ARMY

PA050213 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] More than 200 guerrillas from the Armed Peoples Revolutionary Organization, ORPA, have surrendered to the Army in the last few days, Defense Minister Oscar Mejia Victores reported.

Of the 200, some 150 surrendered last week during an anti-guerrilla operation carried out in Santo Domingo Suchitepequez. Defense Minister Mejia Victores said the following:

[Begin recording] Some of the rebels captured in the military operation said that they had been deceived, which is why they joined the guerrillas. [end recording]

Among the material seized from the rebels during the operation were batteries, typewriters for preparing communiques, medicine, materials for making claymore mines, subversive literature, ammunition, grenades, communications equipment, urea for mixing with dynamite, and several AR-15's and M-16's.

5 SUBVERSIVES KILLED IN CLASHES WITH ARMY

PA040225 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Clashes between army patrols and unknown armed elements left a toll of five subversives dead, according to information released by the Army Public Relations Office.

The bulletin reported that the first clash took place on 31 July near Pueblo Viejo, in Alta Verapaz Department, when an army patrol detected a rebel group. Four rebels were killed in the ensuing clash. Their weapons and ammunition were seized by the troops.

Another rebel was killed in a shootout on Monday morning at Chanchil, in Quetzaltenango Department. The rebel was carrying a modern rifle, handgrenades, ammunition, and important information on his group's operations.

HONDURAS

PRESIDENT SUAZO TRANSFERRED TO TEGUCIGALPA

PA050338 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0109 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 4 Aug (DPA) -- Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova was transferred from Comayagua to Tegucigalpa today, "in view of the fact that his health has greatly improved," according to reports from the Presidential House.

Suazo Cordova was hospitalized last Sunday in Comayagua, 86 km northwest of this capital, as a result of a heart problem, described as "minor" by Dr Arturo Alvarez Martinez, the cardiologist in charge of the team that is caring for the president.

Presidential House spokesmen said that "this refutes the speculative reports by some news media that the president had suffered two heart attacks and was dying."

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCES JOINT MANEUVERS

PA041627 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Communique issued in Tegucigalpa by the International Information Directorate, on 3 August -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Honduran and U.S. Governments, in accordance with the bilateral mutual aid agreement that has been in effect since 1954, have decided to stage a new series of joint military maneuvers. These maneuvers will include several different events on different dates and in different operations, involving some 6,000 Honduran troops and about 4,000 U.S. troops in all.

The total program, which will include training as well as civic activities for the promotion of development, will begin in August and will conclude in early 1984. This series of exercises, known as Ahuas-Tara II or Big Pine II, is the most recent in a series of operations under the UNITAS forces, which include U.S. and Latin American Elements. These exercises began in 1975. Their purpose is for the United States to improve the training conditions of the participating forces and for Honduras to increase its defensive capability.

The training of the Honduran forces will include tactical infantry training, the coordination of fire support, and the handling of amphibious operations.

U.S. and Honduran helicopters will support the field-training exercise. The participation of the U.S. Air Force will include advanced air control operations. A military air bridge will support the movements of the various training, supply, and equipment units. Some engineering equipment will be transported in the ships of the maritime bridge command.

Coordination of the U.S. forces participating in Ahuas-Tara II will be handled by 40 mmembers of the Rapid Deployment Force, organized as leadership of the joint task force, which will be established near the training site.

Health programs, construction of bridges, openings of roads, and other public services will also be carrried out during the joint exercises.

AMBASSADOR DENIES VOTING AGAINST U.S. GOVERNMENT

PA040350 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 3 Aug 83 p 31

[Excerpt] Anibal Villatoro, Honduran ambassador to Venezuela, yesterday denied that he voted in favor of Nicaragua and against the United States on the issue of "economic aggression" during discussions at the third special SELA meeting on the reduction of Nicaragua's sugar quota by the United States. Local news media reported that Villatoro, who represented the Honduran Government at the SELA meeting, voted against the United States for its reduction of Nicaragua's sugar quota. The Reagan administration lodged a complaint with President Roberto Suazo Cordova's government. Ambassador Villatoro sent a message to President Suazo Cordova in which he insisted that he voted neither against the United States nor in favor of Nicaragua, but simply maintained a neutral position.

PAZ BARNICA PROTESTS TO NICARAGUA ON FSLN ACTIONS

PA041409 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] The Honduran Government has protested to the Nicaraguan Govenrment the penetration of Honduran territory on 28 July by FSLN elements, who reached the place known as (Cuesta del Suspiro), jurisdiction of Las Mesas de Cacamuya, Choluteca Department. There they captured Hondurans Antonio Moreno Maldonado, Daniela Mercedes, Alonso Maldonado, and Jirmar Corrales Torres, all of whom were interrogated and threatened with death, but later released.

Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica says in his protest note to Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman that such hostile actions merely aggravate the existing situation between the two countries and confirm to the international public that the Nicaraguan Government is not interested in peace.

PAZ BARNICA SAYS NICARAGUA 'CLOSING ITS DOORS'

PA041913 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Report by Regina Osorio]

[Text] As of 1 September, Roberto Herrera Caceres will represent Honduras at the United Nations, replacing Enrique Ortez Colindres, Foreign Secretary Dr Edgardo Paz Barnica announced:

[Begin recording] There have been no changes in Spain. There are plans to change some of the ambassadors, and to this end the appropriate placets have been requested. Until these placets are obtained, I cannot announce these appointments. I can tell you, however, that Dr Roberto Herrera Caceres has been appointed as Honduras' new ambassador to the United Nations, effective 1 September 1983. [end recording]

The foreign secretary later described as very positive the meeting between the Central American and Contadora foreign ministers in the search for peace in the area.

[Begin recording] In Panama the 9 foreign ministers met for more than 76 hours in intense multilateral sessions. The foreign ministers of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador made specific proposals for a global and regional solution to the problem and reiterated our resolute determination to seek a peaceful solution through diplomatic means. We oppose military solutions, which neither we nor our people want.

The Nicaraguan Government also presented some initiatives that seem to contradict Commander Ortega's 19 July statement, since these proposals revert to a stubborn and trivial bilateralism. We do not object to engaging in bilateral dialogue, so long as it is channeled into a regional and global context within the framework of multilateral talks.

It seems to me the Nicaraguan Government is increasingly closing its doors to achieving an understanding through a multilateral dialogue and a regional solution to the Central American problems. Despite this, we trust that the Contadora Group will succeed. We fully support it. We will meet again in late August. We think we are gradually moving from the phase of theoretical declarations to that of practical accomplishments, studying the simultaneous coordination of mechanisms within a regional and global context. [end recording]

ECONOMY MINISTER RETURNS TO WORK AFTER ACCIDENT

PA041450 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Economy and Commerce Secretary Leticia Edelmira Ma-Tay Amaya returned to her duties yesterday after recovering from a slight accident suffered at home a few days ago. Upon reassuming her duties, the official explained that she is fine now because she followed all the doctors' instructions.

The activities that Ma-Tay Amaya will undertake in the next few days include a possible meeting with Nicaraguan Economy Ministry officials. That country has a huge commercial debt with Honduras. A previous meeting was postponed because of Ma-Tay Amaya's accident.

BRIEFS

NATIONAL PARTY LEADERSHIP -- The National Party of Honduras [PNH] has elected a new Central Committee. Juan Pablo Urrutia is the president of the new Central Committee, and the Political Commission is headed by Mario Rivera Lopez and Rafael Leonardo Callejas. [Excerpts] [Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 Aug 83 PA]

NICARAGUA

PSD PROPOSES JUNTA, STATE COUNCIL CHANGES

PA041836 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0147 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Managua, 3 Aug (ACAN-EFE) -- Today, the opposition Social Democratic Party [PSD] proposed a restructuring of the government junta and the State Council, and that the state of emergency, scheduled to be in effect until May 1984, be suspended.

According to the PSD, Nicaragua is the center of "the conflict in the Central American area because certain deflections and alterations of stance have prevented the fulfillment of the government's original plan." The PSD made the comments while presenting a 15-point proposal.

The dissident Social Democrats believe that to carry out the Nicaraguan revolution's original plan, the current government junta, composed of three members, must be restructured.

According to the party's members, the junta should be composed of a representative of the pro-Sandinist political alliance Revolutionary Patriotic Front (FPR), a member of the opposing Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN), and a member of the independent sector not committed to any of the country's political alliances.

In addition, Social Democrats appealed for the restructuring of the State Council (parliament) asking that it comprise 33 members from every political and union organization in the country. They said the main task of this colegislative body would be the immediate drafting of a democratic constitution.

The opposition party's members demanded that the state of emergency be lifted "in order to restore the country's political climate." The state of emergency was declared in March 1982 and was extended to May 1984.

According to the dissidents, these proposals were sent in writing to the government junta and to the FSLN's National Directorate. Additionally, the Social Democrats suggested that there must exist "freedom of thought and respect for private property."

The PSD, founded in October 1979, asserted that the country's armed forces "must maintain their military, nonpolitical nature and devote themselves to the defense of the nation and the citizens."

According to the party's proposal, there must be an electoral law "that guarantees free elections through free voting, with no compulsion or cajolery."

They also proposed a generaly amnesty for political prisoners and the welcoming of all Nicaraguans "who want to return to the homeland in order to participate in the country's reconstruction if their past records are not too seriously tainted."

The dissemination of the Social Democrats' proposal coincided with a tour the CDN leaders are making through Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama.

STATE COUNCIL SESSION MEETS, DISCUSSES ARTICLES

New Articles Approved

PA042019 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Four new articles were approved during yesterday's State Council session. One of these -- Article No 18 -- had already been discussed in the previous session. However, certain members felt it contained some legal loopholes that needed correction.

Therefore, a motion was introduced for a new debate on this article. This motion was approved and the members proceeded to discuss it again. This procedure lasted 2 hours.

The four new articles include very important ones concerning the requirements for formation of a political party. These requirements are: A party must file a legally documented request containing the names and [words indistinct], the party name and symbol, an affidavit promising to carry out activities according to the country's laws, and a delaration stating that the party principles, structures, and national, and departmental leadership have been presented.

It was emphasized that according to this requirement, a political party with [words indistinct] board of directors can operate as a political party. In addition, the method of electing leaders and their term in office must be established.

Political parties must meet the following prerequisites in order to obain authorization: Submit an application explaining the reasons for forming the party, a copy of the charter, a document containing the party's platform, statutes, principles and assets, and other stipulations established by law.

The Council has discussed 25 of a total of approximately 39 articles constituting the bill.

Delegate Speaks Against War

PA042115 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Dr Julio Centeno, Constitutionalist Liberal Party delegate to the Nicaraguan State Council, said yesterday that both the weak and the strong would be affected by a war. There must be peace talks and understanding: [Begin recording] [Centeno] The government's invitition to the U.S. roving ambassador to visit Nicaragua was very timely. We hope that the talks are fruitful and that he contributes with the good will that the Nicaraguans expect all the U.S. people to have to that a peaceful solution to the problem can be found.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think it would be appropriate for the U.S. warships off Nicaragua to be withdrawn before a multilateral dialogue is initiated?

[Centeno] Of course, a military presence creates an undesirable situation for talks to solve the conflict, because this presence is in fact a way of exerting pressure. The dialogue [word indistinct] because this could result in the imposition of the will of one of the parties, and it is neither possible nor desirable to reach agreements imposed by force, even if this force is not used directly, but as a threat. [end recording]

LA PRENSA DIRECTOR CRITICIZES MEDIA CENSORSHIP

PA050205 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1659 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Caracas, 4 Aug (DPA) -- "Censorship in Nicaragua provides an X-ray view of the government, as it demonstrates its nonalignment policy against the United States, while clearly revealing its fondness for the USSR," Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, co-director of the Managua daily LA PRENSA, said here today.

"The situation of freedom of the press in my country is really critical, having reached the extreme where censorship is applied not only to the opinions of Nicaraguans, but to those of prominent Venezuelans like former President Carlos Andres Perez, who recently recommended that the government junta return to the Nicaraguan revolution's original plan," Chamorro added.

"But that is the least of possible evils, for the alternative is the complete eradication of the given communications medium, as has already happened to 21 radio newscasts, which have been closed since March 1982. Press censorship is directed primarily at the only independent paper in my country, the daily LA PRENSA, he noted.

"They censor things that are foreign to us, as, for example, the Cuban presence in Angola, espionage activities by a Soviet submarine in Swedish waters or the USSR's arms buildup...but they do not censor other news, like the U.S. arms buildup or information on the new weapons being developed by the United States," he pointed out.

He then mentioned "the four radio stations that are now operating," noting that their programs are entirely musical and that "even the records that are played must be approved by the censors."

He later commented that censorship "is not limited to the destruction of a newspaper intellectually, but also extends to tactics intended to delay its circulation on the streets." LA PRENSA has been delayed an average of 5 hours per day, he said.

Chamorro is visiting Caracas with a group of Nicaraguan opposition leaders at the invitation of Venezuelan president Luis Herrera Campins, a Christian Democrat.

COMMISSION TO DISCUSS, TRADE COSTA RICAN BORDER

PA041630 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] The joint commission of the Nicaraguan and Costa Rican Governments will meet in San Jose today to discuss matters related to the border situation and trade between the two nations.

The Nicaraguan delegation to this meeting is comprised of Subcommander Moises Hassan, deputy interior minister, and Augusto Zamora, official in charge of the Foreign Ministry's Legal Affairs Office. Costa Rica will be represented by Deputy Presidency Minister Manuel Carballo Quintana, Deputy Foreign Minister Ekhart Peters, Deputy Government Minister Enrique Chacon, and Deputy Justice Minister Enrique Rojas Franco.

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL VISITS SUPREME COURT

PA031831 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Members of the People's Permanent Tribunal had a busy schedule yesterday in attempting to learn about our situation. They visited the Supreme Court and the Davila Bolanos Military Hospital. The delegation, which will stay in our country for 1 week, is comprised of Victoria (Abellan); (Leo Matarazzo), vice president of the tribunal; and (Gianni Tongionni), secretary general of the organization.

(Abellan) said that their meeting with Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberto Arguello Hurtado was fruitful because they became aware of the revolutionary sense of the people's anti-Somozist tribunals, which she described as instruments for the defense of the revolution. She added that in meetings with members of the Sandinist People's Army wounded by former Somozist guardsmen in the northern and southern border areas, she learned of the courage and valor of the people's combatants, promising to report at international forums that the imperialist warmongering policy has already claimed too many innocent victims in free Nicaragua.

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES AMBUSH EPS FORCE, KILL 6

PA290334 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Jul 83

[Text] A group of 70 counterrevolutionaries ambushed 2 EPS [Sandinist People's Army] vehicles on 26 July, killing 6 soldiers. This criminal attack took place at 1015 at Kuyutingni, 13 km south of Waspan in northern Zelaya.

The victims of this heinous crime were identified as Lieutenant Silvio Genaro Casanova Fuertes and his brother, 2d Lieutenant Luis Manuel Casanova Fuertes, from Ricas; 2d Lieutenant Jose Ismael Murillo Toruno, officer German Jesus Chavarria Gonzalez, Sergeant Mario Enrique Rios Abarca, and Sergeant Victor Reyes Baquedano. According to Defense Ministry sources, soldier Lindolfo Carrero Astran was wounded in the attack and is now being treated in Puerto Cabezas.

The counterrevolutionaries, the sources added, suffered one dead and several wounded and fled to Honduras following their cowardly action.

CLASHES WITH COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES REPORTED

PA022009 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] The border post at Penas Blancas was attacked for 15 minutes with .60-cal machinegun and rifle fire on 31 July, Nicaraguan Defense Ministry sources have announced. The Defense Ministry reported these incidents to the Foreign Ministry so that it may take the necessary action with the Costa Rican Government.

The same sources added that at least 13 counterrevolutionaries have been killed in the last 3 days during clashes with Sandinist People's Army [EPS] troops along the northern and southern borders. Seven counterrevolutionaries were killed on 30 July during a clash in (La Escalera), Rio San Juan Department. Four rifles were recovered in this operation. The counterrevolutionaries later entered Costa Rican territory. Six more counterrevolutionaries died that same day in El Chorro, in Nueva Segovia, when they fought the EPS troops for 4 hours. The EPS reserves sustained two casualties in this action.

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES AMBUSH GOVERNMENT VEHICLE

PA031730 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] A group of counterrevolutionaries ambushed a MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform] vehicle that belonged to the Ocotal regional office yesterday.

The incident occurred in the (Socotesolo) area, 8 km from San Juan de Telpaneca, Madriz Department. Julio Moncada Tercero, director of the Cesar Augusto Pinel Enterprise, was killed in the attack, and Silvia Gonzalez Agurto of the Oscar Danilo Rosales Brigade was wounded. Elena Teheira, general secretary of the MIDINRA regional office in Ocotal, reported that three more people who were on their way to a meeting were riding in the same vehicle. Moncada Tercero's casket was sent to Esteli, his hometown. Meanwhile, Gonzalez Agurto is being treated at La Trinidad Hospital.

HAVANA INTERVIEWS FSLN DELEGATE ON ATTACKS

PA040143 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Interview with Alcides Centeno, FSLN delegate from the Jalapa area of Nicaragua, to special correspondent Nestor Nunez; date not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Nunez] Alcides, we would like a quick evaluation of the military situation in this area, and of the attitude of both the population and the combatants who are facing repeated attacks from the bands of Somozist guards ensconced in Honduras.

[Centeno] I would like to begin by telling you that Jalapa, a town on the border is, by few kilometers, within the range of the weapons of the Somozist guards and of the Honduran Army.

The most recent counterrevolutionary offensive in our area began on 30 May and ended on 13 June. Some 1,000 Somozist guards took part in the attack, supported by an artillery battalion and 10 Honduran Army units. The assailants were repelled, leaving hundreds of bodies in the area around Teotecacinte.

They are again organizing, however, planning to redouble their efforts to take Jalapa.

DAILY TELEGRAPH ON USSR MILITARY PRESENCE

PM051220 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 30 Jul 83 pp 1, 24

[Tony Allen-Mills dispatch: "Soviet Aid Pours Into Nicaragua"]

[Excerpt] Corinto -- More than 200 Soviet-built military vehicles, including two tank transporters, 80 jeeps, and five field ambulances, have been unloaded from Russian freight ships at Nicaragua's Pacific coast port of Corinto this week.

Despite claims by the left-wing Sandinista regime that the Soviet Union is supplying it only with grains, medicine, and tractors, I have seen the green painted vehicles at a makeshift depot beside a grimy beach off the main road into Corinto.

Many vehicles in the depot had labels addressed to "UNDP, Nicaragua." The initials stand for the United Nations Development Programme, but a UNDP official in Managua told me yesterday: "We have no order for vehicles from the Soviet Union. They are nothing to do with us."

The vehicles were being checked on Thursday afternoon by a Russian supervisor: He chatted with me amiably until he learned I was a journalist; then he suddenly became unable to speak Spanish.

The only Sandinista guards in evidence during my visit to the port did not show any interest in my activities, because both were asleep. According to statements by President Reagan in Washington, a new Russian shipment of helicopters and arms is due at Corinto in the next few day on board the Soviet freighter, Aleks Ulyanov.

At least four Russian ships are known to have unloaded here this month. Sandinista officials have described allegations that the ships were carrying military materials as "scandalous lies."

Security at Corinto was reported to have been tight when two Russian vessels were unloaded earlier this week. But when I drove with another English journalist up to the fenced gate at the end of the port's muddy, pot-holed main street, we passed through unchallenged by the guard, who was asleep in the chair. Tied up by the dock were the freighters Perekov and Novotroyska. On the quay nearby were piles of large wooden crates, stencilled with the name of the Cuban State Sugar Company. Beside the Novotroyska were three giant dumper trucks, painted the standard military shade of dark-green. We found more of the trucks parked in irregular rows on a bumpy patch of ground beside a cotton-packing warehouse about a mile out of town. Here a Sandinista guard was also asleep, sprawled in the dust beneath the shade of a tree with his rifle propped over his belly.

Russian vehicles were parked all around the warehouse. At one corner there were about 100 red tractors, part of the Soviet Union's agricultural aid programme. But the great majority of the vehicles were green military jeeps and small pickup trucks of a type we had seen carrying Sandinista troops in mountain areas close to the border with Honduras, where anti-government guerrillas are operating. There were two giant tank transporter cab units, and about 20 heavy lorries. The five ambulances were also painted the same shade of green.

In charge of checking the vehicles, which were apparently awaiting dispersal elsewhere in Nicaragua, was a middle-aged Russian wearing a colourful sports shirt and leather sandals. He shook hands warmly, and gave me instructions in Spanish when I asked for directions to the port. When I added that I was a journalist, and interested to see so many Russian vehicles, he replied: "Sorry, my Spanish is not so good," and turned away.

There was no sign of any offensive weaponry or armoured vehicles in Corinto. On the seats of some of the trucks were wooden crates stencilled with the word "instruments" in Russian script, but these appeared to be spare parts.

The discovery of the vehicle depot tends to confirm that the Soviet Union is pouring substantial quantities of military materials into Nicaragua, but it is less clear to what extent the materials include weapons and ammunition.

During two visits to different parts of the border with Honduras in the last few days, I saw no sign of anything more potent than portable rocket launchers. The AK-47 rifles carried by most of the reservist troops in Sandinista forward positions are far from being new, and many are showing signs of rust from the damp, tropical, rainy season conditions. But American officials in Washington insist that Russian and Cuban weapons are not only reaching Nicaragua, but are also being shipped on by Sandinistas to the left-wing guerrillas fighting the government of El Salvador.

VOICE OF SANDINO PROTESTS SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENT

PA302250 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 30 Jul 83

[Excerpt] Several democratic countries have protested the arrival of an arsenal of Soviet weapons in our country. A total of nine Russian ships have unloaded several tons of arms in Corinto on the Pacific and El Bluff on the Atlantic coast. Among the homicidal weapons sent to the totalitarian dictators are 40 T-55 and T-54 tanks, armored vehicles, 152-mm and 122-mm howitzers, M-2 [as heard] transport planes, and cannon.

This creates tension in the region in what is considered the greatest belligerence in our history. Never before has a dictatorship created terror and threatened Central American peace as much as the dictatorship of the nine, who seized the political power of the Nicaraguan people, supported by weapons from the Russian communists, who are responsible for whatever may happen in the next few days, days which are decisive for the future of our fatherland and for the rest of our Central American brothers.

ARDE REPORTS CLASH AT SAN JORGE; 4 CUBANS KILLED

PA281325 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 28 Jul 83

[War Bulletin No 41 issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance Armed Forces General Command on 27 July 1983 in the "mountains of Nicaragua"]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces' general command reports to the Nicaraguan people and the world:

1. At 1830 on Saturday, 23 July, squads from ARDE's internal front, using rifles, M-79 grenades, and RPG-7 rocket launchers, attacked a barge carrying 28 members of the army that is violating our homeland's sovereignty at San Jorge, Rivas Department. This port is on the great lake.

2. After 35 minutes of gunfire and a fierce attack with RPG-7's, the barge was sunk. The enemy soldiers, including four Cuban officers from the Cuban Special Operations Directorate, DOE, were killed.

3. ARDE's internal front said that actions like this will continue to be reported throughout our territory. We have no casualties to report from this operation.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past! Free fatherland or death!

PASTORA ADDRESSES PEASANTS ON CURRENT SITUATION

PA031726 [Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua at 0000 GMT on 3 August broadcasts a statement by Eden Pastora, or Commander Cero, which he describes as the first in a series of talks with Nicaragua's peasants, Indians, and workers.

In a denunciation of the country's current situation, Pastora criticizes the current dictatorship, the prevailing lack of freedom, the fratricidal war being waged, and the way the people are being oppressed.

He also referred to Soviet support of the FSLN government, primarily in the form of arms shipments.

Further on, commenting on the various methods of waging war, Pastora says: "Let us tell our peasants about another form of struggle, another form of waging a war, the form we are currently using in southern Nicaragua -- the peasant insurrection, with our peasants dispersed throughout their territories, valleys, hamlets, and villages." "A peasant insurrection is preparing to make the transition to formation of a guerilla army."

After further expanding on this idea, Pastora adds: "Therefore, companeros, let us advance to this stage. An example of the success that can be accomplished by fighting in this manner has been palpably seen in La Azucena, around El Pavon Hill, La Venada, Chile Hill, Los Chiles, Pavona Uno and Pavona Dos, Ventura, and La Azucena, where 500 peasants are fighting, waging a battle against the 3,000 men of the interventionist forces there, of the foreign occupation forces there, who pose as Sandinists while killing the real Sandinists. They are not killing the bourgeoisie in Managua; they are killing dark-skinned peasants, hardened by the outdoor life, the sun and the wind."

Pastora concludes his talk by stressing the courage and bravery that characterize Nicaraguans, and the need to wage this war so that the Nicaraguan people can become free.

ARDE GROUP TO BROADCAST ON FM, TELEVISION

PA290418 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Attention, Nicaraguan people; attention, Sandino's people: The Voice of Sandino reports that the Lanza Squad, a member of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance's (ARDE) information system, will daily broadcast on a 106 MHz FM and over Channel 2 television as of 1800. We call on you to tune in and listen to our programs, during which we will broadcast our struggle's message of liberation. It does not matter that the treacherous collective will not allow images on television, because we will always be on the air. Without totalitarianism, and without returning to the past! Free fatherland or death!

MDN, FRS REBEL GROUPS MERGE PUBLICATIONS

PA291723 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] has issued its first publication since the beginning of the war in the south.

ARDE HACIA EL RESCATE DE LA LIBERTAD [ARDE TOWARD THE RECOVERY OF FREEDOM] is the name of the publication of the insurgent movement, which is currently growing in Nicaragua's southern and Atlantic regions. It replaces the MDN's [Nicaraguan Democratic Movement] RESCATE DE MDN [MDN RESCUE] partisan publication and the FRS [Sandino Revolutionary Front] UN PUEBLO EN LUCHA [A STRUGGLING PEOPLE].

The publication is dated July and its clandestine issuance in Nicaragua has been a success. The front cover shows Commander Pastora in fatugues with a radio set in his hands while establishing communication with his camps and the Nicaraguan people. His transmissions can be heard through the clandestine stations Voice of Sandino and Voice of Free Nicaragua on the 49 and 60-meter bands, shortwave, respectively.

The editorial contains an official explanation of the cease-fire observed in late June and early July. Other items include Alfonso Robelo's statement outlining possible paths toward unity with other Nicaraguan armed groups. The publication also contains a summary of the war waged by the Southern Front and the Atlantic Front; ARDE's 18-point plan to rescue the ideals; a statement by the Alliance of Nicaraguan Workers [Alianza de Trabajadores Nicaraguenses -- ATN] in exile; a document by the MISURASATA [Miskito, Sumu and Rama Sandinist Unity] group against [as heard] the Nicaraguan Indians; a cartoon on the popular church and the Sandinist national assembly; and a letter sent by ARDE to the Socialist International.

This ARDE publication will circulate throughout the nation.

FDN SAYS OAS SHOULD REPLACE CONTADORA EFFORTS

PA042058 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1715 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN] announced today in Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, that is is a nationalist force composed of Nicaraguans who, in their efforts to democratize Nicaragua, already occupy nine departments in that country.

The FDN complained that the Contadora Group and U.S. special envoy Richard Stone have ignored it in terms of initiatives being pursued to open a dialogue with the Sandinists. It also criticized the double standard in the search for peace in Central America, noting that for this reason, the Nicaraguan -- and therefore Central American -- problem should gradually be transferred from the Contadora Group to the OAS.

Finally, the FDN recalled that in 1979 the Sandinists promised Nicaragua and the world that they would be democrats and would hold free elections. Instead, they have only increased repression.

FDN CLAIMS MILITARY SUCCESSES OVER SANDINISTS

PA311904 Paris AFP in Spanish 1616 GMT 31 Jul 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 Jul (AFP) -- The anti-Sandinist combatants are maintaining a "strong, sustained, and permanent offensive" against the Nicaraguan Government, a spokesman for the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), an armed rebel organization composed mostly of former members of the defunct Somozist National Guard, has announced in this capital.

An FDN communique claims that from May to July it inflicted "more than 5,000 casualties" on the Sandinist People's Army (EPS), destroyed 150 trucks, and damaged between 9 and 11 aircraft. It also claims to have recovered more than 800 weapons and 78,000 projectiles.

The fighting is taking place in the Departments of Nueva Segovia, Esteli, Madriz, Jinotega, Boaco, and Matagalpa in northern Nicaragua, according to the spokesman. The spokesman told AFP, however, "that it is not a priority task at this time to liberate a part of Nicaraguan territory to form an independent government."

"That objective," he explained, "is an alternative that is under study. We are analyzing the security risks such a step would imply."

He noted that the counterrevolutionaries -- who have their bases in Honduras, as Nicaragua has repeatedly charged -- plan "to harass and soften the enemy, resorting to the guerrilla tactic of hit-and-run combat."

The informant said that the FDN Directorate "is actively pursuing" an intense political and diplomatic campaign to obtain "the sympathy of the democratic countries for the defense of democracy and liberty."

The FDN is supported by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and in Washington it was reported that, within an overall plan to step up U.S. military activities in Central America. the largest paramilitary operations since Vietnam will soon be carried out in the region. It was learned that within the context of these plans, the number of counterrevolutionary forces (now estimated at some 10,000 men) will increase substantially. According to THE WASHINGTON POST, the number might increase to some [word indistinct] troops.

FDN-FARN AID PEASANTS FLEEING TO HONDURAS

PA300450 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 29 Jul 83 p 4

[Text] The Nicaraguan Democratic Union (UDN) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Nicaragua (FARN) inform the people of Nicaragua and the free peoples of the world that:

1. On 22 July 1983 at 0600, the columns led by Commanders "Martin," "Stephan," and "Toto," coordinated by Fernando "Negro" Chamorro, occupied "El Lagero" valley in the jurisdiction of Cusmapa, Esteli Department after heavy fighting that lasted about an hour with a detachment from the Sandinist People's Militia and the Sandinist People's Army, completely shattering the enemy's control over the population. The casualties inflicted on the enemy have not yet been determined.

2. During the attack on the town, our forces captured four members of the people's militia, who were also members of the "CDS" (Sandinist Defense Committee), and who terrorized the population.

The "CDS" fled in disarray with a large amount of communist literature that was to have been distributed among the population.

3. The UDN-FARN liberation groups maintained total control of the valley for an hour, during which time 189 community representatives asked the rebels to protect them while they left Nicaraguan territory to escape the repression they are suffering, the growing scarcity of food, clothing, and medicine, and the constant threats that the town will be bombed and burned if they refuse to join the Sandinist front organization. For these reasons, they decided to leave the country.

4. The commanders considered and approved the request and at dawn on 23 July, the massive exodus of the residents of "El Lagero" valley began. The people carried some of their scant belongings with them as they left their homeland, now threatened with destruction.

5. En route to the northern border, where the group of 189 people, including the elderly, women and children, would ask the Honduran Government for refuge, Sandinist troops tried to stop the peasants' advance with heavy artillery fire and bombing.

The attack, however, did not intimidate the peasants or stop their desperate flight and their desire for freedom, for they continued to advance while the UDN-FARN groups broke up the enemy's firing line.

6. The painful journey lasted nearly 14 hours, during which the women and children, fearing the climate of repression and misery, were able to surmount their difficulties in the mountains, and reaching the northern border, were turned over to the authorities.

After this unexpected mission, the UDN-FARN rebels rejoined the troops fighting in the Nicaraguan mountains, to continue protecting our brothers in disgrace, and to renew the actions against the totalitarian Sandinist regime.

[Signed] Fernando "Negro" Chamorro, commander in chief, UDN-FARN

BRIEFS

FRENCH CREDITS GRANTED -- A Foreign Ministry note revealed yesterday that France has granted Nicaragua soft credits of 200 million francs from 1981 to 1982, and it is expected that, following a study of relations between the two countries, this cooperation may be quadrupled. After concluding the documents at the Foreign Ministry, the French representative, Nicole Briot, said the negotiations were the result of the friendship and solidarity between France and Nicaragua. [Summary] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Jul 83 p 5 PA]

CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR -- On 28 July Kipros P. Kiprianou presented his credentials as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Nicaragua's revolutionary government. Rafael Cordova Rivas, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, received the credentials during a ceremony held at the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, in which Victor Tinoco, deputy foreign minister, also participated. [Text] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 29 Jul 83 p 12 PA]

COMMENTARY STRESSES CONDITIONS FOR PEACE IN C.A.

FL042131 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Aug 83

["FAR and MININT Combatants Political Information Program" commentary]

[Text] Disregarding the just world demands against the arms race and for peace, U.S. President Ronald Reagan is continuing his dangerous policy of threats, of which the clearest manifestation is the upcoming Central American military maneuvers. The troops to be deployed total 16,000 soldiers aboard two aircraft carriers, 1 battleship, and 16 other warships. They will participate in joint military maneuvers with troops of the Honduran regime.

According to statements by General Paul Gorman, chief of the U.S. Army Southern Command, who will be the commanding officer of the maneuvers, there will be 5,000 U.S. troops in Honduras at the peak of the exercises. The troops to be deployed in the area of the conflict include specialized units such as engineering, aviation, transport, naval vigilance services [servicios de vigilancia de la marina], and the infamous Green Berets, as an arrogant demonstration that they can intervene in any country in the region.

Because of the U.S. President's hysterical blabbering in an attempt to strangle the struggle in El Salvador and the development of the Nicaraguan revolutionary process, various political, social, and religious sectors have raised their voices in protest, even in the United States itself. The U.S. Democratic legislators have just proposed a law that would prohibit the President from sending combat troops to Central America, whether in the case of war or maneuvers. Even though the legislators do not expect this proposal to go beyond passage by the U.S. House of Representatives, the mere fact that it has been made implies the existence of disagreement within that country's political circles with the steps taken by the Reagan administration.

On this topic, Senator Gary Hart of Colorado, who is one of the proponents of the law, told newsmen he feels that the government's decision to increase its military presence in Central America is imprudent and provocative. These situations and the growing pressure of those opposing a conflict of unforeseeable consequences appear to have had an impact on the possibility of a negotiated solution. International news agencies have reported that there is a reasonable possibility for the negotiations; there is speculation on a recent contact between Reagan's special envoy, Richard Stone, and the representative of the Salvadoran rebellion, Ruben Zamora. A report by the Spanish news agency EFE refers to the supposed acceptance by the chief of the Salvadoran regime, Alvaro Magana, of the proposal that he meet with the patriots of that Central American country. No date has yet been set for these meetings.

As any sensible person can see, these negotiations could free the region from a confrontation that could provoke irreparable losses. But in any case, honorable and acceptable commitments must be taken into consideration with respect to the struggling peoples.

As Commander in Chief Fidel Castro stated in a recent interview with U.S. newsmen, a solution cannot be attained in Central America by imposing one side's wishes on the other; it would have to be a solution based on equitable and honorable principles.

U.S. 'HOSTILE ACTION' AGAINST NICARAGUA CITED

PA040241 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 3 Aug 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Government is continuing to ignore the international community's increasing demands that it end its hostile actions against Nicaragua. Washington has not stopped its efforts to overthrow the Sandinist revolution, toward which end it is using every available means to do the greatest possible damage to the heroic Nicaraguan people.

The actions of the counterrevolutionary groups, which are financed and advised by the U.S. CIA and the Pentagon, are continuing to increase despite the defeats inflicted on them by the Sandinist People's Army. Perhaps for this reason, the United States is accelerating its plans for intervention in the area. It has not even ruled out a direct attack on Nicaragua by Marines.

In the past few days, the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has reported the presence of a U.S. Navy cruiser 15 km west of Aposentillo, off the coast of Chinandega Department. It has also denounced recent violations of Nicaraguan airspace by Honduran aircraft. A report issued by the voice of Nicaragua, the official radio station, stressed that the U.S. cruiser is carrying 13 helicopters, various kinds of rockets, and antisubmarine weapons. It added that, on Thursday, an unidentified airplane from Honduras fired three rockets at El Cardon Island, near the port of Corinto. The rockets fell into the sea without doing any damage. Following the unsuccessful attack, the aircraft returned to Honduran territory. The attack took place at a time when three Soviet merchant ships, which had brought fertilizers, medicine, and wheat to Nicaragua, were docked at the port of Corinto.

The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported that since 26 July there has been an increase in violations of Nicaraguan airspace by airplanes from Honduras, to which country they returned following their reconnaissance missions. A Foreign Ministry communique stated that these actions once again underscore the grave threats that are hanging over Nicaragua as a result of the militaristic and warmongering policy of Ronald Reagan's government and its allies in the region.

The most curious aspect of the whole situation, however, is that the United States is trying to appear to be a fervent defender of peace in Central America. While it threatens with its gunboats, it unleashes a hyprocritical publicity campaign about what it describes as the expansion of communism through Cuba and the Soviet Union. Washington thus appears to be very active in the diplomatic area while implementing new plans, including the promotion of high-ranking officials involved in its Central American policy and the creation of a bipartisan commission charged with evaluating U.S. relations with the Central American countries. In this way, Reagan hopes to impede the work of the Contadora Group -- Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia -- which has been undertaking praiseworthy efforts to secure peace in the region since January.

Nevertheless, the White House's attempts to undercut the Contadora Group's initiatives have been unsuccessful. The group has the support of the great majority of the governments of Latin America and other parts of the world. Even the British Government, a traditional supporter of Reagan's adventurist and warmongering policy, has shown signs of concern over Washington's aggressive course in Central America, implying that it would be better to reduce tensions in this region than to fan the flames of war.

RUMORS OF SHULTZ RESIGNATION REPORTED

PA042130 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] International news agencies have noted rumors circulating in Washington regarding the possible resignation of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz as a result of his frequent quarrels with high-ranking White House officials, especially over the Central American situation. AFP recalled that, for the past 2 weeks, the U.S. press has been reporting the increasing frustration felt by Shultz and his aides because of the rapid rise of National Security Adviser William Clark.

ACTIVITIES OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTED

Arrival From Colombia, Panama

PA050420 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson has arrived in Havana from Colombia on an official visit to Cuba, the last stop on his tour of several Latin American countries.

Cheysson, who was received by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, made a stopover in Panama City, where he met with the Panamanian and Nicaraguan foreign ministers, Juan Jose Amado and Miguel D'Escoto, exchanging views with them on the Central American situation. In a statement made in Panama to PRELA, Cheysson said that, in his meeting with the Panamanian and Nicaraguan foreign ministers, he learned of the efforts being made to secure peace for Central America, and he reiterated France's support of the efforts of the Contadora Group and of the Cancun peace declaration.

Airport Statement

PA050057 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] France's Minister of External Affairs Claude Cheysson arrived in Cuba this afternoon, heading a delegation formed by French Ambassador to Cuba Pierre Decamps and officials of his ministry. At Jose Marti International Airport, the visitor was met by his Cuban counterpart, Isidoro Malmierca. In a statement at the airport, the French minister stated that his talks with the Cuban Government will be direct and frank, inasmuch as he has nothing to hide from Cuba. The high-level French delegation will remain in our country until next Saturday.

Delegation Members Identified

PA042118 Paris AFP in Spanish 2055 GMT 4 Aug 83

[Text] Havana, 4 Aug (AFP) -- Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, arrived in Havana today at 1640 (2040 GMT) from Bogota, on a 3-day official visit to Cuba.

Cheysson is accompanied by his wife; Antoine Blanca, French roving Ambassador to Latin America; and Bernard Dorin, Director of the French External Relations Ministry's Department for the Americas. They were greeted at Jose Marti Airport by Isidoro Malmierca, Cheysson's Cuban counterpart.

Interview on L.A. Tour

NC050847 Paris AFP in English 0843 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Havana, Aug 5 (AFP) -- French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson today continued an official visit here with a call to the nations of Latin America to work for the creation of regional groups leading to broader inter-American cooperation. Mr Cheysson arrived here yesterday for a three-day Cuban visit, the last leg of a two-week Central American tour that has taken him to Brazil, Bolivia, and Colombia.

In an interview with AFP, Mr Cheysson said he stressed the importance of regional cooperation at each step of his tour, which also included a brief stopover in Panama where he met with both the Panamanian and Nicaraguan foreign ministers.

He reiterated French and European Economic Community support for efforts by the Contadora Group of nations -- Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela -- to find the basis for lasting peace in Central America. He said the EEC, which has backed the most recent appeal by the Contadora Group meeting in Cancun, Mexico last month, is prepared to help Central American countries overcome their economic difficulties as a contribution to peace in the region. But Central American nations should themselves begin negotiating regional accords which could in turn lead to cooperation on a wider scale, he said.

He pointed to the model of the EEC, whose members had succeeded in "overcoming traditional hostilities and dissipating the spectre of war" through the creation of a community. A similar formula could work for Central America, he said.

Mr Cheysson is to hold a second series of meetings with his Cuban counterpart Isidoro Malmierca today. He also confers with Cuban Vice-President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez. Informed sources said he would meet with Mr Castro during the course of his three-day stay.

Havana on La Paz Remarks

PA030310 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 2 Aug 83

[Text] French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson has stated in La Paz that the presence of U.S. aircraft carriers near Central American countries does not contribute to a search for solutions to the problems of that region.

At a news conference, Cheysson said that the Central American conflicts are political. Therefore, a dialogue is needed to solve the crisis, instead of the violence and arms which the United States favors. He also expressed support for the Bolivian process and said that he advocates a dialogue among all the democratic forces of that country.

Cheysson had already met with Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo, Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora, and the presidents of the Senate and the Chamber of Representatives. He will continue his Latin American tour and will leave for Colombia today.

REPORTAGE ON MOST RECENT HIJACKED AIRPLANE

PA050139 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0125 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Havana, 4 Aug (EFE) -- Havana Airport officials have confirmed that a U.S. airplane, diverted from its route between Puerto Rico and Miami, landed here at 2040 (0040 GMT). The airplane belongs to the "Capitol Air Lines" company and has 248 passengers and 10 crew members aboard. According to information from the United States, the airplane was hijacked by a passenger armed with a handgun. This is the sixth hijacking of a U.S. airplane to Cuba in the last 3 weeks.

Hijacker Surrenders

PA050211 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0201 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Text] Havana, 4 Aug (EFE) -- The man who hijacked an airliner en route from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Miami surrendered to Cuban authorities tonight. According to Cuban Immigration authorities, all passengers and crew members are safe and unharmed.

The plane, carrying 248 passengers and 10 crew members, landed at 0040 at Cuba's Jose Marti Airport. The plane had been hijacked by a man armed with a pistol.

Plane Damaged, Return Delayed

PA050436 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0421 GMT 5 Aug 83

[Excerpts] Havana, 4 Aug (EFE) -- The U.S. Capitol Air Lines airplane that was hijacked to Havana is unable to take off from this island due to the damage it suffered upon landing. The planes' tire exploded when it touched Cuban soil because of the high temperature, sources from Havana's Jose Marti International airport told EFE tonight.

It is not yet known when the airplane will take off or if another plane will be sent from the United States to carry the 248 passengers and 10 crew members who were traveling aboard the U.S. DC-8. The passengers and crew have been transferred to the air terminal, where they have eaten and are buying Cuban souvenirs.

BRIEFS

ROTTERDAM MAYOR VISITS -- Oscar Fernandez Mell, president of the Havana City Provincial Assembly of the People's Government, has presented the keys to the city to Mr (Abraham Peyter), mayor of Rotterdam, who is visiting our country. [Summary] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Aug 83 FL]

RISQUET ADDRESS -- In Las Tunas, Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo, after congratulating the country's dockworkers for unloading over 700,000 tons of imported merchandise for the 5th consecutive month, called on them to maintain this level in August. The leader gave the closing remarks at the seventh production assessment of the port-transportation domestic-economy network of the western central territory, which was won by Camaguey. [Excerpt] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2002 GMT 4 Aug 83 FL]

BARBADOS

TULL, U.S. OFFICIAL FELDMAN HOLD TALKS

FL040017 Bridgetown CANA in English 2330 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Aug 3, CANA -- Barbados Foreign Minister Louis Tull and the U.S. deputy permanent representative at the United Nations, Harvey Feldman, today held a round of talks here on a number of issues going before the UN General Assembly later this year.

"Some of these things related to human rights, the problems in the Middle East, international economic issues, the question of southern Africa, decolonisation, the question of self-determination, disarmament and other related issues," Tull said. Afterward the diplomatc currently on a swing through the Eastern Caribbean, was able to explain the thinking of the U.S. Government on a number of the issues, while Tull did the same for the Barbados Government. However, the Barbados foreign minister said that there was no effect made "to seek common ground" on these issues. "We are two different countries with different approaches," he said, "but we did get a chance to understand each other's thinking in respect of the various issues coming before the General Assembly." The minister said he also raised with the diplomat the question of Barbados seeking a seat on the U.S. Security Council.

Tull said Ambassador Feldman reiterated the U.S. position on its financial contribution to the U.N. "He expressed the view that the budget has gone up within the last decade by as much as 140 percent and the U.S. Government was very determined to make sure that the budget was contained and that there would be no net increase supported by the U.S. Government in this coming General Assembly," Tull said.

However, he added that according to the ambassador, this did not mean that there would not be any new programmes, rather that any such programmes would have to be accommodated within the existing budget.

DOMINICA

CHARLES FIRES COMMUNICATIONS, WORKS MINISTER

FL032258 Bridgetown CANA in English 2250 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Aug 3, CANA -- Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles has sacked Communications and Works Minister Henry Dyer, state-owned DBS radio said tonight. It did not say why Dyer, a lawyer, had been relieved of the cabinet post but quoted Miss Charles as saying new ministerial appointments will be announced on Friday. Miss Charles hinted at the likelihood of a cabinet shake-up last month when she addressed the annual convention of her ruling Dominica Freedom Party.

BRIEFS

UNSUCCESSFUL BOMB ATTEMPT -- Roseau, Dominica, Aug 4, CANA -- Dominica's police today said they had found a bomb in a storeroom of the government's printery in Roseau. The bomb had been ignited, but failed to go off, police spokesman Desmond Blanchard reported. The police said no arrests had been made and they did not know the motive behind the incident. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1655 GMT 4 Aug 83 FL]

JAMAICA

CENTRAL BANK NOTES FIRST QUARTER DEFICIT

FL032340 Bridgetown CANA in English 2245 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 3, CANA -- Jamaica has recorded a 1983 first quarter trade deficit of more than 355.4 million dollars (1 Jca dollar; 56 cents U.S.) according to Central Bank statistics. The Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) August Statistical Digest put the value of imports between January and March at 623.563 million dollars, against exports of 268.144 million dollars. The 1983 first quarter deficit of 355.419 million dollars compared with 238.845 million dollars for the corresponding period in 1982. According to the Central Bank figures, exports to Jamaica's Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom) partners in the first quarter were 31.5 million dollars against imports of 29.6 million dollars. In 1982, Jamaica had a balance of trade deficit of 1.1 billion dollars, when imports were 2.4 billion dollars. Despite the rising first quarter trade balance, the overall deficit for 1983 is expected to temper by yearend. Last June, responding to a deterioration in the island's economy and to maintain an International Monetary Fund (IMF) facility, the government was forced to introduce an austerity package that included cutting 159 million dollars (U.S.) out of a projected fiscal year import budget of 1.379 billion dollars (U.S.).

However, with the continuing recession in the bauxite/alumina sector and the major agricultural export earners, sugar and banana still not doing well, export earnings for 1983 are not expected to do better than the 1.29 billion dollars of last year, which will continue to put pressure on the balance of trade figures.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BUDGET FOR 1983-84 APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT

FL291818 Bridgetown CANA in English 1648 GMT 29 Jul 83

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, July 29, CANA -- St Vincent and the Grenadines' 1983-84 budget of 143.2 million dollars (one E.C. dollar; 37 cents U.S.) was last night approved by Parliament after four full days of debate by the 12 elected and six nominated members of the House of Assembly. The biggest slice of the 57.2 million dollars earmarked for capital projects -- 27 million dollars -- has been allocated to the Ministry of Communications and Works, with the Ministry of Finance receiving the second largest slice of 13.1 million dollars. An estimated 16.4 million of the 86 million dollars recurrent expenditure will be spent on education, and 10.7 million on the country's medical and health services. The three opposition parliamentarians, all from different parties, together with the two opposition senators, criticised the performance and policies of the ruling St Vincent Labour Party (SVLP) of Prime Minister Milton Cato over the past year and described the budget as "padded" and "full of empty promises."

TV DOCUMENTARY ON SURINAMESE MILITIA TRAINING

FL041327 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Aug 83

[Text] U.S. imperialism has been systematically spreading aggressive propaganda against the people of Nicaragua, Grenada, Cuba and, more recently, against the revolutionary process of Suriname. On this occasion we are going to broadcast a report that presents certain aspects of the training of the Surinamese militias who are preparing to defend their homeland against any aggression.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The Surinamese national militias were officially established in Suriname on 21 May 1983. Today we are reporting from a training camp where students train on Fridays and Saturdays. We are going to show you a report on the training that is being carried out consistently and persistently by the students and the instructors.

Following the call to join the popular militias in Suriname, hundreds of men, women, and youths registered as members and began training to be prepared to defend the homeland. The organization of the forces, marching sharpshooting, and other requirements for optimum military training are part of the classes that, in this case, the youths receive twice a week.

[Reporter translates instructor's remarks] This training for the youths is necessary because it prepares us to defend ourselves against any aggression from abroad. Our youths are our strength. We are aware of the need to construct the militias. [Words indistinct] everything that we can learn in the training of the militias. We come to learn, to transfer this knowledge to other youths, and to set an example. We are here to train ourselves and to defend our country. That is why we are preparing ourselves with greater strength, greater strength, greater strength. [end instructor's remarks]

We were at the Zanderij shooting range when Commander Desi Bouterse, leader of the Surinamese revolution, arrived. The following is an interview with Commander Bouterse.

[Unidentified reporter] Commander Bouterse, we are from Cuba Television. We want to show our people how the Surinamese people are working for the revolution. Please give us your opinion of the Surinamese popular militias at this time.

[Bouterse -- from reporter's Spanish translation] At this moment, as you know, we are in the beginning stages and it is difficult to formulate an opinion. We see a desire, a will. We see enthusiasm. We see that the people understand what is happening in the revolution. We are receiving great support for our cause. The people had to learn the hard way because the revolution was new they did not understand it. The propaganda against it was intense, very intense, in the last 3 years.

We have lived through these 3 years and the people now understand many things that we have explained to them. In the past we explained many things that are now very clear to everyone. Now the people understand the imperialist attacks. We have explained, and they learned about these attacks. At this moment when imperialism is showing its true face, the people are aware of what is happening. [End Bouterse's remarks]

Here the Surinamese youths who come to train every week learn to shoot and they shoot well. [End recording]